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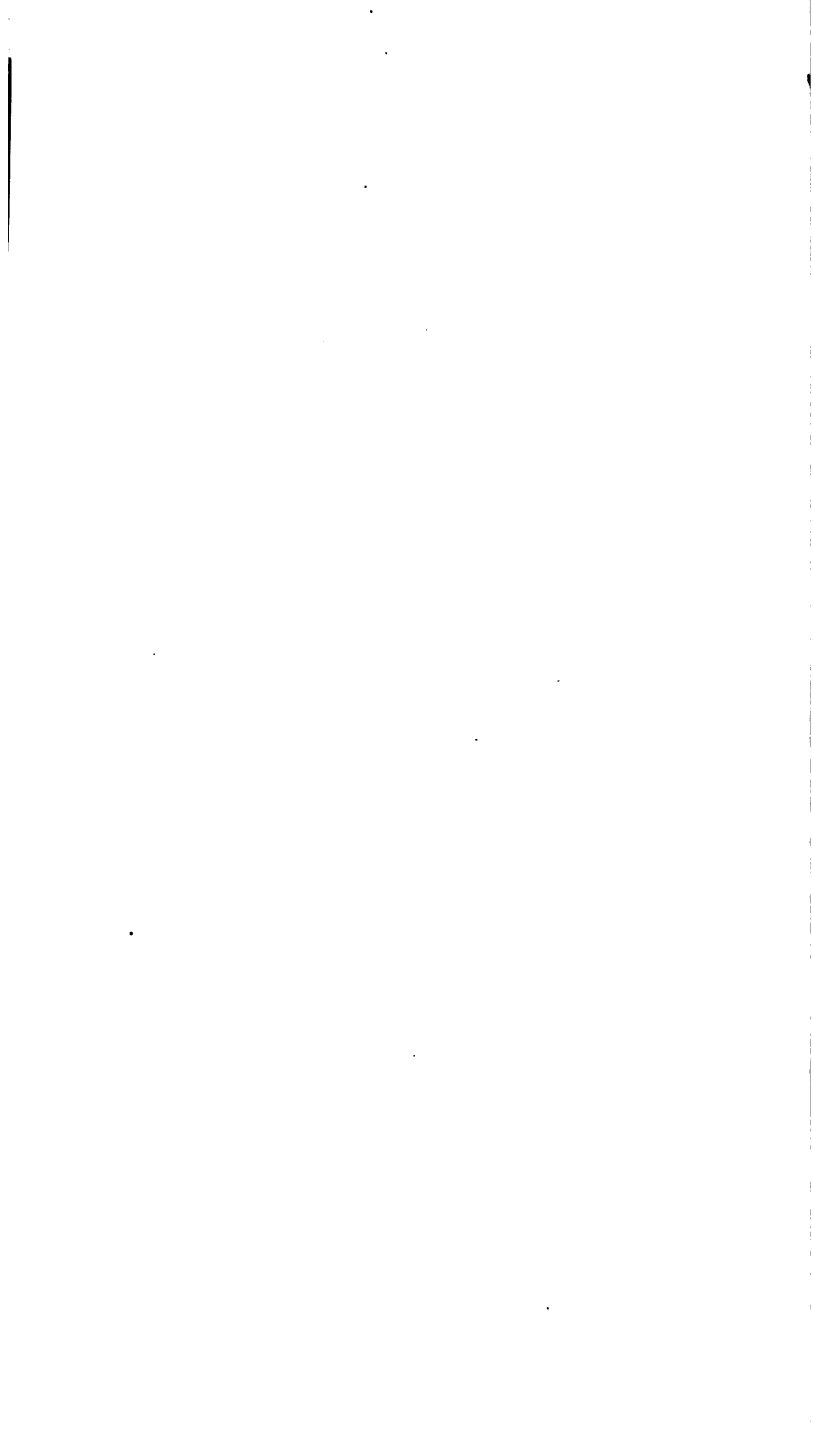
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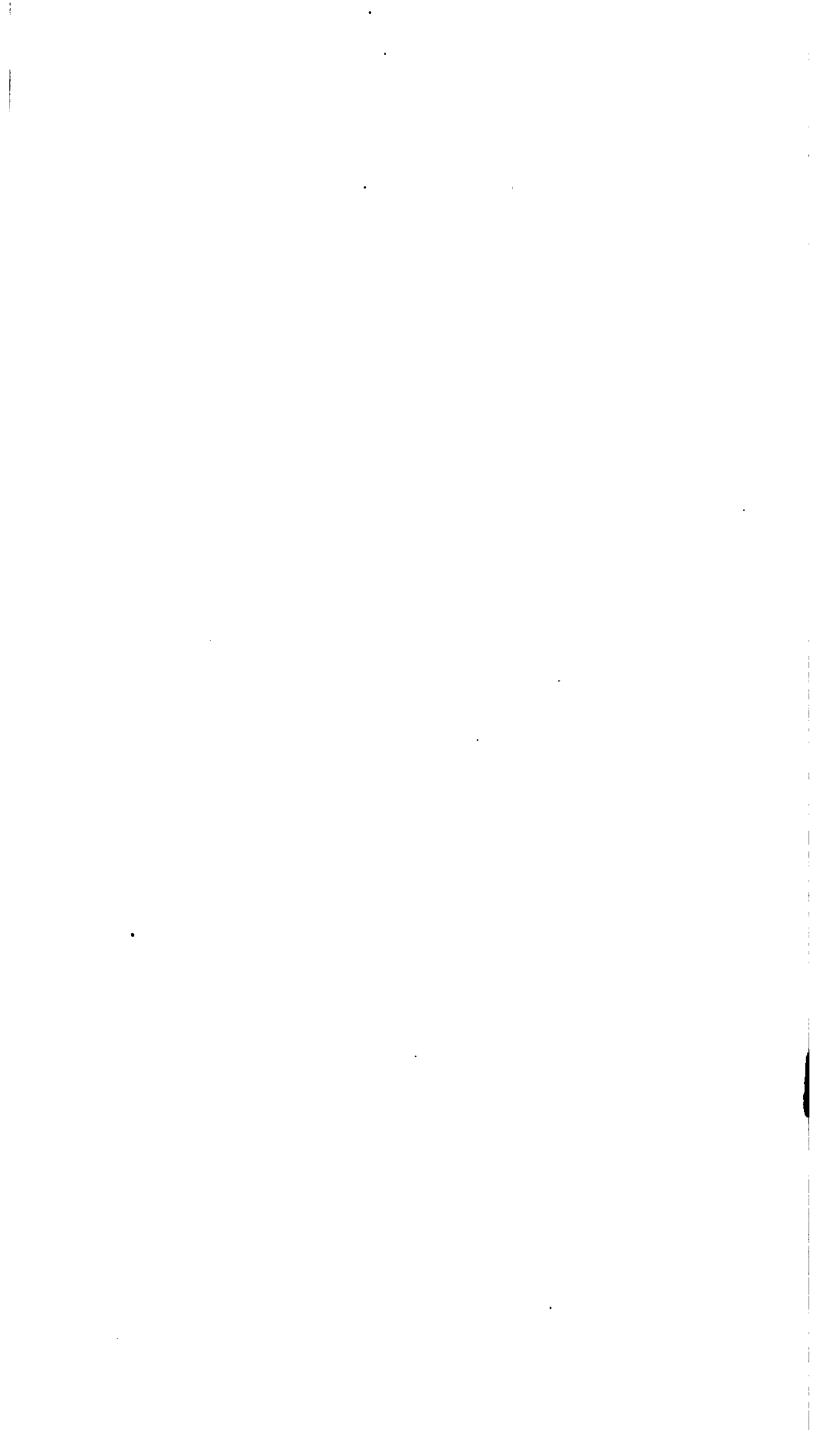
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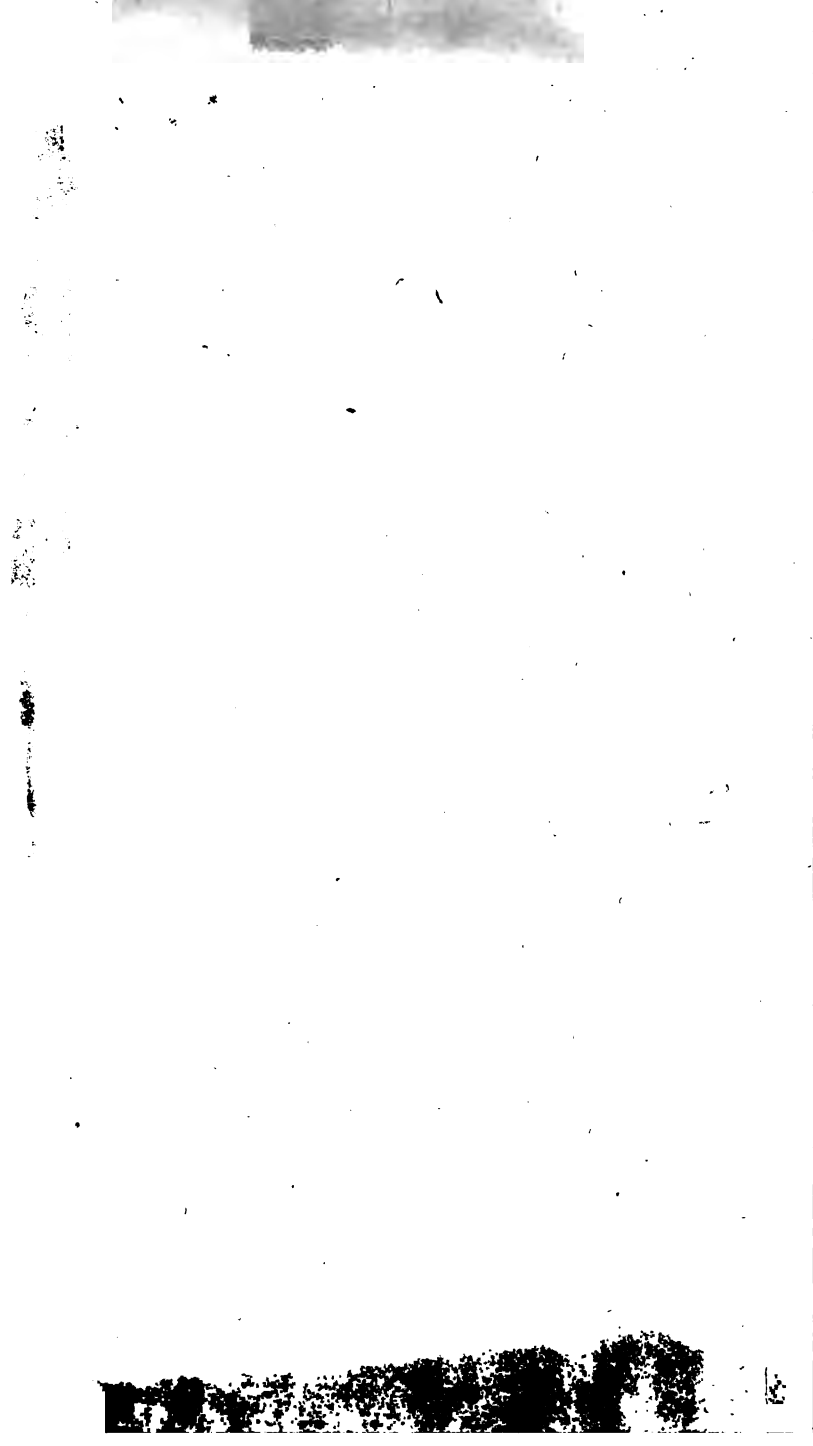


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° L E T T E R S
A N D
N E G O T I A T I O N S
O F T H E
C O U N T *D'Estades*,
D'Estades

Ambassador from LEWIS XIV. to the
States-General of the *United-Provinces*
of the *Low-Countries*.

From the Year 1663 to the Year 1669.

Consisting chiefly of

Original LETTERS and INSTRUCTIONS
from the *French King*, and his Ministers,
to the said Count; with his Answers.

Wherein are

Several Secret TRANSACTIONS between the
Courts of *England* and *France* during that time.

Translated by several Hands.

In THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME the FIRST.

L O N D O N :

Printed for D. Browne, J. Tonson, A. and J. Churchill, J.
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To the Right Honourable

SYDNEY

EARL of Godolphin.

My LORD,



HIS Translation being entirely Owing to your Lordship's Opinion of the Original, seems to have the best Excuse for pretending to the Honour of your Patronage; and, indeed, there are so many Reasons, why no Man is

DEDICATION.

so proper to Protect it as your Lordship, that the Translators flatter themselves they shall at least have your Pardon.

The Work they have made English will shew the Depth of Policy, and Arts of Negotiation; in two of the greatest Ministers Europe ever heard of, 'till a late Wise and Happy Administration.

But to manage for a mighty Monarch, possess'd of the Treasures of his whole People, and Master of the Councils of almost all Christendom, needed not so exalted a Genius as to be Minister in a State impoverish'd by a Ten Years War, discourag'd by some Misfortunes, divided by Factions, and happy only in a Ministry so wisely Chosen, and so eminently Qualify'd for their high Station.

What were the wonderful Effects of that Choice, is in the Memory of every honest Britain. The Fidelity, the Justice, the Boldness, the Success of that Ministry soon
rais'd

DEDICATION.

rais'd the Reputation of the British Empire to a Height that never was known before, and render'd it the Terror of our Foes, and not a little perhaps the Envy even of our Friends.

Such Services, my Lord, must necessarily make you Enemies in a Nation that has so many; not one of which could be a Friend to your Lordship; and not one, without a secret Joy, see your Lordship's Wisdom, and consummate Experience, no longer of Use to our Queen and Country.

That's the only Triumph your Lordship has left them to boast of, while your Illustrious Friend and You will make a Figure in History equal at least to the greatest of Antiquity; with this Advantage to both your Fames, that what Others did most Gloriously, either by their Councils or their Arms, was to enslave: And what both your Lordships, to free Mankind.

Your

DEDICATION.

Your Lordship has so frequently had the publick Thanks, and the grateful Testimony of the People, for the Blessings you procur'd them, that ours will be but a poor Sacrifice to such Sublime Worth; and we should not have presum'd to offer it, had we not taken a Pride in preserving our Gratitude, when 'tis the Merit of so many to be Ungrateful.

To have made Credit flourish more in time of War, than it did in Peace; to have United Two Nations which for many Hundred Years had an Abhorrence of Union; to have gain'd the Universal Confidence of so many jealous and interested Allies, will make Futurity as much admire at the Fortune, as the Extent of that Malice, which could attack so well-guarded a Character: But as your Lordship is above the Hate of your Enemies, so theirs is below your Concern; and tho' You have contented your self to return only a generous Scorn, yet Posterity will not be satisfy'd with so short

DEDICATION.

short a Revenge; and we cannot but pity the Fate which must attend their Memories, while your Lordship's will ever be dear to all those that shall take a Pleasure in the Glory of Britain. We are, with the greatest Respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most Humble,

most Obedient, and most

Devoted Servants.





LETTERS,
Memoirs and Negotiations
OF THE
COUNT D'ESTRADES,

Ambassador from His Most Christian
Majesty, to the Lords the States-Gener-
al of the *United Provinces* of the Low-
Countries.

From the Count D'Estades, to the King.
January 4, 1663.

THE Ice having hinder'd my landing at
the usual Places after my Passage by
Sea, I got to the *Hague* by Land the
26th of the last Month, and remain'd
in my House *Incognito* 'till the 2d of
this. The Snow and Ice have so en-
creas'd, that the States cou'd not receive me at *Delft*,
the Ways being impracticable; they therefore order'd
a House to be fitted up for me at *Ryswick*, where they
B treated

treated me the said second Day with all the accustomed Ceremonies, and two Deputies accompany'd with three-score Coaches came to meet me at *Hoornbrugh Bridge*, which is the Place where all Ambassadors are receiv'd. The ill state of my Health, occasion'd by the Wound in my Leg, not suffering me to sit six Hours at Table, and drink as they are wont to do at the Feasts they make for three Days together at the Entry of Ambassadors, I desir'd to be excus'd the other two Days, which was granted me. The third I had my Audience, and was conducted and receiv'd by two of the States Deputies, according to the usual Custom; and at Night, eight Deputies, of whom two were for *Holland*, and the rest for the six remaining Provinces, came to my House to make me a Compliment. I send your Majesty the Speech I made to them, with which they seem'd very well pleas'd. This Morning *Mr. de Wit*, Advocate-General, came to visit me, and declar'd to me, he was ready to do any thing to gain your Majesty's Esteem and Friendship: He cou'd not have talk'd more handsomely, nor with more warmth than he did. I reply'd, I would give your Majesty an Account of all he had said to me, that I cou'd assure him beforehand, your Majesty had a very great Value for his Person, and admir'd his Conduct; that what I might venture to tell him from my self was, when by his Actions he shou'd demonstrate a Deference for your Majesty before all other Kings, and have a regard to the Affairs for which you are most concern'd, and about which I am order'd to discourse with him, before I confer with the Lords the States, he wou'd entirely gain your Majesty's Friendship and Confidence. To which I added, there were no Round-about-ways now to come at your Majesty, for that you manag'd your Affairs your self, that he might go directly to you, and there was no better Council for me to give him. He express'd himself to me, that he wou'd pursue and act vigorously all the Affairs your Majesty espouses. He's a Man of such Capacity, and such Interest in the Cities of *Holland*, that he's
here

here a sort of a God Almighty, and is certainly the Man whom most Pains is to be taken about, to manage him rightly. I shall for the future give your Majesty a very exact Account of all Things, and apply my self to find out the Sentiments of the principal Persons in the Cities, to renew my old Acquaintance, and to testify to your Majesty, by my Respect and Obedience, the real Passion I have to be, to my Life's End.

The Count D'Estrades Credentials presented to the Lords the States-General of the United Provinces of the Low-Countries : January 3, 1663.

“ MOST Dear, Great Friends, Allies and Con-
 “ federates, the desire we have to give sin-
 “ gular Proofs of our Royal Good-will, which an-
 “ swer the Value we put upon your Affections,
 “ and the Relation of Interest into which we are
 “ enter'd by our late Treaty, having made us chuse a
 “ Person of Worth, the *Sieur Count D'Estrades*, Coun-
 “ cellor in our Council of State and Privy-Council,
 “ Knight of our Orders, one of our Lieutenant-Gener-
 “ als in our Armies, Governor of the City and Cita-
 “ del of *Dunkirk*, the Forts thereunto belonging, and
 “ perpetual Mayor of *Bordeaux*, to reside with you
 “ in Quality of our Ambassador-Extraordinary, and to
 “ Employ himself about those Things which re-
 “ gard the Execution of our Treaties, and that which
 “ we have acquainted your Ambassadors-Extraordina-
 “ ry with, as also for the maintaining the good Uni-
 “ on and Correspondence which ought to follow our
 “ Alliance; we have fully instructed him in our In-
 “ tentions on all Matters; wherefore we pray you
 “ to add Faith to all he shall tell you from us;
 “ and especially when he shall assure you of our

“ Disposition to contribute to whatever may advance
 “ your general and particular Good. Praying the Di-
 “ vine Mercy to hold you most dear, great Friends,
 “ Allies and Confederates, in his Holy and Worthy
 “ Keeping. Written at *Paris* the 17th Day of *De-*
cember, 1662. Your good Friend and Confederate,

Lower de Lomenie.

Sign'd, LOUIS.

Superfcription, *To our most Dear, Great Friends, At-*
lies and Confederates, the States-General of the Uni-
ted Provinces of the Low-Countries.

The Count D'Estrades Speech made in the
Assembly of the Lords the States-General
of the United Provinces of the Low-
Countries: January 3, 1663.

“ **T**HE King my Master being willing to follow
 “ the good Example of his Predecessors, in
 “ the ancient Alliances they always took Care to make
 “ with your Lordships and this State; and in that espe-
 “ cially, to imitate King *Henry* the Great, of Happy Me-
 “ mory; has commanded me to assure your Lordships,
 “ that he takes your seeking after his Alliance and
 “ Friendship very kindly, and that he grants them both
 “ to you with the more Joy and Sincerity, because
 “ he observes in the present Government of your
 “ State a *Just and Regular* Conduct, quite different
 “ from the Maxims which some Years ago divided
 “ Mens Minds here, and seem'd also to have divided
 “ their Interests, which have been always so conjoin'd,
 “ and as it were common between *France* and this State.
 “ His Majesty was so sensibly touch'd, to hear with what
 “ Acclamations of Joy the News of the Renewal of
 “ the Alliance was receiv'd by the People of all the
 “ Pro-

“ Provinces, that if he had not already forgotten past
 “ Things, this sole Circumstance would fully have
 “ blotted that Remembrance of 'em out of his Mind;
 “ and he receives those publick Sentiments, as so many
 “ infallible Signs of your Lordships Resolutions in-
 “ violably to maintain this Alliance, and never suffer
 “ it to be shaken by the false Reasons of a contrary
 “ Conduct, which can come only from the Enemies
 “ of your State, and those that envy its Greatness.

“ His Majesty has also commanded me to assure
 “ your Lordships, that he shall hereafter take all the
 “ Advantages and Prosperities of this State to be his own,
 “ that he will with all Frankness and Affection concur on
 “ all Occasions that shall present to procure them, promi-
 “ sing himself, your Lordships will have the same Sen-
 “ timents for him; and that you will with Joy begin
 “ to give him effectual Proofs of them, in certain Af-
 “ fairs full of Justice, which he would not require of
 “ you at the Conclusion of the Treaty, but rather re-
 “ ceive them as the Effects of the Sincerity of your
 “ Friendship, of which I shall with more Leisure at
 “ another time inform you of the Particulars.

“ The King, my Master, doubts not your Lordships
 “ Ambassadors did, at their Return, give you an exact
 “ and faithful Relation of the whole Course of their
 “ Negotiation, and take Notice to you of the Particular
 “ and Extraordinary Propension in his Majesty, by a
 “ hundred Compliances, to unite Interests with your
 “ Republick, and by making very considerable Conces-
 “ sions to which in your Favour and for your Ad-
 “ vantage he consented to surmount all Obstacles that
 “ might have cross'd, and perhaps have broken off this
 “ Affair. But since it pleas'd God at last to bless it with
 “ Success, and that there's no Clause in the Treaty
 “ of great or small Importance whatsoever, which has
 “ not been consider'd and well discuss'd by the Appli-
 “ cation he gives to all his Affairs, and particularly
 “ those of this Nature; his Majesty has commanded me
 “ to assure your Lordships, that valuing nothing more

“ than his Reputation, and above all, to be deem'd a
 “ Prince, who is a Religious Observer of his Word,
 “ he will take a particular Care to accomplish all the
 “ Conditions of the said Treaty, and to give your
 “ Lordships, in all Occurrences, Proofs of his Royal
 “ Good-will and Esteem. And as to my self, I can
 “ assure your Lordships, that of all the Employments
 “ with which his Majesty has hitherto honour'd me,
 “ I never receiv'd any with so much Pleasure as this,
 “ and that I think my self happy to have an Opportu-
 “ nity, by doing my Duty, to shew to your Lord-
 “ ships the Inclination I have a long time had for your
 “ Service, and my Affection for all your Interests. Done
 at the *Hague*, *January 3. 1668.*

Signed, D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 January 11, 1663.

I Am now to speak of those Things about which I
 discours'd with the Pensionary; who began by tel-
 ling me, he doubted not the States wou'd enter into
 the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, provided
 your Majesty wou'd also enter into the Guaranty of
 the Treaty concerning the Country of *Outremeuse*, made
 by *Esteven de Gamarre*, as also of the Treaty with *Eng-
 land*, which was only but a Renewal of the Alli-
 ance. I told him, those Affairs lying now before your
 Majesty at *Paris*, I had nothing to say to him thereon,
 but that he might know your Intensions by their Am-
 bassador.

I spoke to him about a Journey, *Richard*, Secreta-
 ry to the *Spanish* Embassy, has made, since my coming,
 to the Cities of the Province of *Holland*, to insinuate
 into the Minds of the People an Apprehension of the
 Neighbourhood of your Majesty, by the Acquisition
 of

of *Dunkirk*; alledging, Every thing was to be fear'd from a Prince so powerful, and of so great Ambition; that Provinces much farther off than thurs were not secure; that he talk'd to them after such a manner, as to make an Impression on their Minds; and shew'd them, that the Freedom your Majesty had given to *Dunkirk*, wou'd ruin *Holland* and *Zealand* in a few Years. That I thought it convenient to give him Advice of it, seeing he had discover'd to me so good a Disposition to any Thing relating to your Majesty's Interests, which were prejudic'd by such sort of Negotiations. I nam'd a Magistrate of *Dort*, and another of *Harlem*, with whom he conferr'd. The Pensionary told me, I shou'd know in a few Days what he wou'd cause to be done in this Affair. In Effect, he sent for those two Persons, and severely reprimanded them for heark'ning to a Foreign Minister, about Affairs which related to a Prince in Alliance with the State, and so great a King as your Majesty, without the States Permission, he said they ought to be indicted for it, and brought to a Trial; which so frightened them, that they confess'd their Fault, tho' they had done nothing but given him the hearing, and went no farther in the Matter than to say *Dunkirk* wou'd ruin the Trade of *Holland*. I thank'd the Pensionary for doing it, and may assure your Majesty I shall have Opportunities to renew my old Acquaintance here. There shall nothing pass in *Holland* but your Majesty shall know it.

The *Sieur Friquet*, the Emperor's Envoy, has made his Excuse for not sending his Coach to the Audience; alledging, he had Orders from his Master to go no where, if the *Portugal* Ambassador's Coach was to be there; and without such an Order, he shou'd not have fail'd sending his own. His Gentleman afterwards demanded Audience of me, and told me, his Master pretended to the Hand, as the *Spanish* Ambassador gave it him. I reply'd, I shou'd give it to none but Ambassadors, and that I shou'd acknowledge him only as

the Emperor's Resident, and in that Quality wou'd treat him like other Residents. I never heard of him since, and he has not demanded any Audience of me.

The *Portugal* Ambassador told me, at the Visit he made me, the King of *Spain* had sent a Proposal to the King of *Portugal*, for Commissioners to meet and treat of a Truce for some Years.

* The Deputy of the Hansealick Towns has been with me, and desir'd me to propose to your Majesty, in behalf of his Masters, to bear part of the Charge of the War your Majesty is going to enter into with the Pirates of *Algiers*, provided you will be as favourable to them, in abating the 50 Sols a Ton, as your Majesty has been by the Treaty to the Lords the States. I answer'd, I wou'd write to your Majesty about it, and let him know what Answer I receiv'd.

I shall conform my self to what Monsieur de *Lionne* has written me from your Majesty, with Respect to the Princes *William* and *Maurice* of *Nassau*, and the Prince of *Tarente*. I must inform your Majesty, that the Provinces of *Friseland* and *Groningen*, of which Prince *William* is Governor, and where he has a great many Friends, will not be very favourable to him in the Affairs that are to be manag'd; and that Prince *Maurice's* Friends will join in with them; and the rather, because they claim a Right to the Title of Highness, being allow'd it by your Majesty's Orders, and the *Spanish* Ambassador giving them that Quality. But as to that, I must tell your Majesty, it shall be my Business to gain over such Servants and Friends of the State, as may be powerful enough to destroy the Cabals of the Disaffected, and serving such a Master as your Majesty. I doubt not I shall effect it, and dispose things so, that they shall happen to your Content.

On Information that there were several Letters from *Brussels* and *Antwerp* sent to the Cities of *Holland*, that the Freedom your Majesty has given to *Dunkirk* is but for two Years; I caus'd one of the Prints Monsieur *Nacard* sent me to be translated into *Dutch*, and have distributed

distributed them in all the Provinces; especially in the Cities where there are Colleges of Admiralty, as at *Amsterdam* and *Rotterdam*. I hope this will have a good Effect on the Minds of the People.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
January 19, 1663.

I Was very glad to hear the *Sieur de Wit* so severely reprimanded the two Magistrates of *Dart* and *Harlem*, who had hearken'd too much to the Insinuations of the Secretary of the *Spanish* Embassy, to prepare them for the League. *Gamarre* has Orders to Sollicite. This gives me Reason to hope the Pensionary of *Holland* will act to our Satisfaction in the Affair; which, without doubt, is the most Important of all, and consequently you ought to have it always in View, and to apply your self with a singular Application to inform your self of all that shall pass. In the mean time you may tell the said Pensionary, that having given me an Account of his Behaviour in this Affair, I charg'd you to return him Thanks from me, and not doubting but the States by his Direction wou'd build on my Friendship as a solid and certain Foundation, without making any wry Step to disoblige me on vain and chimerical Apprehensions, he may in return assure himself, I shall be as much concern'd for the Interests of the States, as for my own; and they shall on all Occasions find me not only a good Friend and sincere Allie, but the most real and firm Support of their Republick. I see a'lo they endeavour to use Evasions in the Affair of *Barkelo*, and the Satisfaction of the Bishop of *Amster*. In this you will find the *Sieur de Ghent* very Opposite: For 'tis his Foresight which protects the Count de *Stirum*, who is the Bishop's Adversary. But certainly, by what has yet appear'd to my Commissioners, that Prince has all the Right on his Side; however, if this Affair

be

be not accommodated, it may involve the States in the end in very great Difficulties. The Bishop, by the Reduction of this City, having shewn how far he can drive Things when he sets about it, and thinks he's in the Right. As for the Article of *Rhinberg*, I always thought it very difficult to satisfy the Elector of *Cologne*, unless the States cou'd be perswaded the Place is of no use to them, there being a great number below it on the *Rhine*; and that if the Elector razes the Fortifications, as he's ready to do, they may several ways benefit by it, as easing themselves of the Charge of paying a useless Garrison, to do Justice to a considerable Prince, who wou'd take it to be done out of Compliance to me, and reckon himself oblig'd to me for it; and in fine, they wou'd not then live in Fear, and be forc'd to use continual Precautions to prevent any Insult on the side of the Empire.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
January 18, 1663.

I Am to give your Majesty an Account of two Visits which were made me this Day, and which I believe was done in Concert; one at nine a Clock in the Morning by the Pensionary; the other at three in the Afternoon by Monsieur *Van Benning*, who was Ambassador in *France*.

The former began the Conversation very artfully with the most respectful and obliging Expressions towards your Majesty, and enlarg'd on your Power, on the great Qualities you enjoy, and that, in short, one might suppose a great Soul was not without a great Ambition; that it might also be hop'd Neighbours and Allies might Aggrandize themselves by the Means your Royal Goodness might put into their Hands, that they hop'd to have it shortly in their Commerce, the only Support of their State, tho' the Freedom your Majesty

Majesty had given *Dunkirk*, caus'd great Allarms in the Provinces of *Holland* and *Zealand*.

But considering also the little Advantage your Majesty wou'd receive by it, and how much it wou'd lessen the Revenues of *France*, by taking off the Duties on Goods in the Frontier Towns of *Flanders*, he cou'd not think your Majesty wou'd leave the Certain for the Uncertain; and that he must own to me, the States wou'd be very much oblig'd to your Majesty, if you wou'd retrench that Freedom, which is so great the like was never known.

I reply'd, I was not surpriz'd to hear him talk of your Majesty as he had done, that I doubred not he did it with Pleasure, because I had observ'd, in several Conferences I had had with him, he was very well inform'd of your Majesty's great Qualities; but that I was willing to Explain them a little more particularly to him; that I agreed with him as to your Majesty's great Power, your great Soul, and great Ambition: But it was also proper he shou'd know to what Use you put all those great Qualities. As for your Power, you never thought of making any other Use of it, but to maintain a Union and good Amity with your Allies; as he might know by the Orders I had receiv'd to act with Reference to the States: And as for your great Soul and great Ambition, both of them were only employ'd to keep what was your own, and you desir'd nothing unjust of any one whatsoever; but also would not suffer any thing which is your Majesty's Due to be in any wise alter'd.

As to the Freedom your Majesty has given *Dunkirk*, your Majesty had no View of its being prejudicial to the States who may do the same all over their Provinces; Neither did you consider your own Interest, because by it your Revenues are diminish'd, only in acknowledgement of the Affection the Inhabitants have on several Occasions shewn for your Majesty, and to let the People of *Flanders* see, that if they were some Years past oppress'd by the Governors of the Places under your Govern-

Government, your Majesty was now at the Head of your Affairs, and would establish so good Order, that not only they shou'd see you desir'd they should live in Peace; but, also, that every one should gain by the Liberty of Trade: And for this Reason your Majesty parted with your Revenues with joy, to increase those of a People who had been afflicted in your Minority, and at a Time when you could not help them. Upon which I desir'd him to take notice of your Majesty's depriving your self of the most clear Branches of your Revenue, that your Neighbours might hereafter receive the benefit of it, and your Majesty give them Marks of your Royal Bounty and Liberality. He saw plainly, by my Answer, he had not gain'd any thing upon me.

Monfieur *Van Benning's* Discourse was to the same Effect, but not told with the same Address: I answer'd him to the same purpose as I had done the Pensionary, by endeavouring to give him to understand your Majesty's Design was to maintain Peace and Union with all the World; but also to defend your Rights if they were attack'd. I thought it best to carry my self thus to these Men, because of certain Information I have had of Caballs forming in the Cities of *Amsterdam*, *Rotterdam*, and in *Zealand*, against the Freedom of *Dunkirk*. I have been told they have sent Deputies to the States-General, to declare to them, that the greatest Part of Work-men in Manufactures who have come into *Holland* within these twenty Years, would now return to *Ghent* and *Bruges*, to work for and trade to *Dunkirk*.

That the best Merchants in the above-mention'd Places have declar'd, if this Freedom goes on, they will send Factors to *Dunkirk*, and follow after with their Families.

Zealand is under the same Apprehensions for the Sugars, Tobacco and Indigo, which come from the Isles of *St. Christopher*, *Martinico*, and *Guadeloupe*; the Trade of which has enrich'd several Families, notwithstanding

standing the great Duties they pay in *Zealand*. So that the most clear-sighted see plainly *Dunkirk* will in four Years time draw all the Trade; and ruin this Country. I have also been inform'd Men have been sent privately to *Ghent* and *Bruges*, to endeavour to dissuade the Magistrates from having any Trade with *Dunkirk*, and even that the Duties in *Zealand* have been offer'd to be lessen'd: It has been told them there's no safety in settling in a garrison'd Town, and they had better continue their Trade with their old Friends, than begin a Correspondence with New. All I have said has been intimated to me by my Intelligence in *Bruges* and *Ghent*, and I perceiv'd by these Gentlemens Discourse they visit'd me only to list me on this Freedom, which, I find, touches 'em very nearly.

Your Majesty will do me the honour to write me, if you are pleas'd to approve of the Answer I gave them, and if you wou'd have me speak more boldly to them, in case they talk to me of it again.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
January 26, 1663.

THE Reason is very evident, and I can justify it by what the Ambassadors who were here said; That if I made any difficulty to be their Guaranty for *Rhinberg*, 'twou'd be to leave a Door open for all the Empire to attack them, and even mark out to them the Place where it may be done, without my being oblig'd to stir for their Differences; to which they protest'd they cou'd never consent, and in effect I soon submitted to so convincing a Reason. The same thing happens now to me touching *Dunkirk*; I have promis'd the States to be Guarantee for their Possessions, and happily before the Ratifications were exchange'd, that is before the Treaty had receiv'd its Perfection, I have Occasion to acquire a new Place. if
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the States are not Guarantees for it, as well as for all the rest; will it not be to mark out to *Spain* the Place she may attack me at, on Pretensions well or ill grounded; without the States obliging themselves to stir to assist me? And if she shou'd ever have any such Design, will she seek after any other Pretext than that of my Allies standing with their Arms across, of which she wou'd presently take Advantage? Wou'd it be just that I shou'd oblige my self to break with any Aggressor whatsoever, that may attack the States, and on any Account whatsoever, without examining the Grounds of it either good or bad; and in the only Rupture I have cause to think can be made with me, the said States shou'd not be oblig'd to any thing, unless it be to remain Spectators of the War?

In Truth, the Disproportion wou'd be so great in an Alliance of this sort, and I shou'd have so much the Disadvantage in the inequality of the Obligation on my Part, and no Engagement on the other, that you'll your self soon see I cannot, nor ought not to exchange the Ratifications of our Treaty, unless *Dunkirk* be compriz'd in it. Nay, I add further, rather than any other Place in my Possession, because 'tis that which is most likely to give Rise to a Rupture.

As to the *Sieur de Wit*'s saying 'tis their Intention to satisfy me on this Point, that the Province of *Zealand* had already resolv'd upon it, and there was no reason to doubt of the others following the Example; I'm willing to take his Word, and if it was an Affair of less Importance, I shou'd thereon go farther: But as it is of the last Consequence, and wherein the Question is, Whether the States will, or will not oblige themselves to break in my Favour if I shou'd be attack'd, while I'm oblig'd to break for them as soon as they shall be attack'd by any Power whatsoever, I leave you to Judge whether Prudence wou'd suffer me to take so dangerous a Step, on a likelihood only that some People will do as others have done. Nothing being more uncertain than their Deliberations, of which

which we have so many Examples. For to say People, is to say, almost as many Opinions as there are Heads.

I use these Arguments only to let you comprehend with what Circumspection I ought to proceed in this Affair, and that you may convince the *Sieur de Wit* of it, who cannot but allow not only that I do not now boggle, which comes only from the Constitutions of their State, but that formerly, as soon as I had any Hopes of concluding the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, I had great Reason not to Exchange the Ratifications 'till the Place was included with the rest, in the general Guaranty we have stipulated.

All I have hitherto said, may, and ought to be told the Pensionary of *Holland*, who being well affected, and a wise and just Minister, will know very well that I cannot in Prudence do otherwise. What I am going to add, is for your self alone, and you are not to discover it to any one.

'Tis a long time since 'twas signify'd to the *Sieur Baurel*, by my Order, that the Exchange of the Ratifications should not be made without his Masters being Guarantee for the Treaty of *Dunkirk*; and neither he nor any one of the State have said any thing to the contrary, and all that has been done with you has been to get the Opinion of the Provinces on my Demand; there's great likelihood that what causes the Change at this time in their former Conduct, and what has occasion'd the pressing Instances now made you for the exchange of the said Ratifications, without waiting for any further Deliberation, is the great displeasure, I find by your Dispatch, the Freedom I have given *Dunkirk* gives the States; they imagining it may in time prejudice their Trade, of which they wou'd every where be Masters, to the exclusion of all other Nations: And they think, if they can now dispose me to render that Treaty compleat by the said Exchange, without comprising *Dunkirk* in it, they may afterwards oblige me to revoke the said Freedom, by so managing the other Provinces,

Provinces, that they shall not offer the said Guaranty for *Dunkirk*; but on Condition of that Revocation. What gives the greater ground for this Suspicion, is the long Term they say is necessary to have the Opinion of the said Provinces; for they have talk'd to you of four Months, and I know by Experience of what pass'd at *Munster*, that when Matters of great Importance are to be debated, they never desire above six Weeks for't, and there are so many gone already, and more, since the *Sieur Boxeel* was first spoken to.

You will judge sufficiently, by what is above-said, of what Importance it is to avoid this Snare, if it be tender'd to me; which cannot be done but by my making the Exchange of these Ratifications and the Gauranty of *Dunkirk* go step by step, and with equal pace together.

As to what relates to the Freedom of *Dunkirk*, which the Pensionary of *Holland* and the *Sieur Van Benning* talk'd to you of; you may tell both the one and the other, that I was surpriz'd to find they were alarm'd so much at a thing which so little deserves it; that I had not hitherto made the least Reflection on an Augmentation of Trade, which they both seem'd to apprehend so much in their Discourse with you; and to say Truth, as I had never any thought of it, I know better than they, it would be in vain to think of it now or at any time hereafter; the Nature of the *French* not being so adapted as to apply themselves to Traffick, whatever care I should take to put them upon it. Besides, the Port of *Dunkirk* is not of it self proper to create Envy in them or Foreigners, being a Place of War, where the Fortifications and a numerous Garrison are not very compatible with the entire Liberty and Safety which Merchants desire; further, the Port being very bad, and the Entrance very difficult and dangerous, because of the Sands, none of the Conveniences which might contribute to the Facility and Augmentation of Trade are there to be met with. We have seen what a Progress the *Spaniards*

ards made in it, when they were Masters of the Place, and endeavour'd to settle it there: For, excepting their Pyracies on my Subjects in time of War, the cause and terror of which cease in Peace with respect to all the Neighbouring States, what was there done by them in augmenting Commerce in this Port? My only Aim in not settling an Office for Duties on Goods at *Dunkirk* was, that I might not treat my new Subjects there worse than those of my other Conquests, which I have not burthen'd with Impositions, that are levy'd only in the ancient Limits of my Kingdom; I never set up Offices for Customs in the Cities of *Hainault*, in those of *Luxemburgh*, in *Roussillon*, *Alsace*, or *Pignerol*; nay, there's none at *Gravelin*. Why then shou'd I settle one at *Dunkirk*, which for many Reasons I shou'd treat more mildly, to regain the Affections and Hearts of the Inhabitants, who might justly enough complain of my giving them, after I had conquer'd them, to a Power whose Domination cou'd not be very agreeable to them. By all that's above said, those who have the Direction of the State, will judge if they have any occasion to conceive Jealousies of the Freedom of *Dunkirk*, as they seem to have done by what they said to you; the Cause of it being quite different from what they thought it was, and they will in time perceive it will do 'em no more damage than that of *Phillipville*, or *Mariembourg*, where there's no Trade at all. The Restitution of *Rhinberg*, by razing the Fortifications, will be of no manner of Consequence as to the Elector of *Brandenburg's* Towns which the States have in their Hands; for besides that I doubt very much, whether the said Elector will consent to a like Demolition for his, tho' the States shou'd oblige the Elector of *Cologne* to do it, they wou'd certainly find abundance of Reasons different, as to one and the other; particularly, the Elector of *Brandenburg's* carrying himself so disobligingly towards them, and having a great many other Interests to be decided between them. After all, there's a particular Consideration which cannot

not fail them, and will stop the Eleſtor's Mouth which is to ſay, I have oblig'd them by Treaty to reſtore *Rhinberg*.

I think I have already told you, in your Inſtructions, that I ſhou'd take every thing to be well laid out, that was expended for my gaining the Penſionary of *Holland* entirely, and I have not alter'd my Opinion. But this muſt be manag'd with Dexterity, becauſe, as he has been painted to me, he's a Man who values himſelf on his Virtue, and wou'd be proud of reſuſing any ſuch Propoſals. However, this Inconvenience is not ſo great, but I believe you may eaſily drop in Diſcourſe with him, that I ſhou'd rejoice at an Opportunity to give him effectual Proofs of my Benevolence, if he was diſpos'd to receive them. This Step may help to ſhew him the Sincerity of my Affection, and my Eſteem of his Merit and good Qualities.

From the Count D'Eſtrades to the King:
January 25, 1663.

I Was very glad to underſtand your Maſteſty was willing to be Guarante of the Treaties of *England* and the Country of *Outremouſe*, if the States wou'd alſo be Guarantees for that of *Dunkirk*.

But he repreſented, that conſidering the Treaty which was made with your Maſteſty, contain'd, That the Ratifications ſhou'd be exchang'd in three Months, and that not being done, there did not appear to be any great Security in Treaties. That he thought it wou'd be more advantageous for your Maſteſty, and the States, that a Treaty for the Guaranties of the Treaties of *Dunkirk*, *England*, and the Country of *Outremouſe*, ſhou'd be made ſeparately, and the two Ratifications be done at once; and thus the firſt Treaty wou'd not ſeem to have been alter'd, or retarded, by any new Propoſition.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
February 1, 1663.

I Have been further inform'd, that this Envoy does not only propose the League between the seventeen Provinces, but goes so far, as to declare the King of *Spain* is resolv'd to assist the Pope, whatever Appearances of the contrary are given your Majesty: That the *German* Troops are marching, and those of *Italy* stopping for that Design, and that a Treaty of Peace is concluding with *Portugal*, to have the 30000 Men the King of *Spain* employs in that War; that there's no Reason to doubt but your Majesty intends to make your self Master of all the Neighbouring States, that you had already treated with the Duke of *Mantua* for *Casal* and *Monferrat*, and that the King of *Spain* wou'd rather run the hazard of his Dutchy of *Milan*, than suffer such an Acquisition; that to prevent the Mischief a Rupture between the two Crowns might cause, the King of *Spain* wou'd take his Measures with all his Allies, and had sent new advantageous Proposals to the King of *England*, which it was hop'd wou'd succeed; it being in Consideration of that, and at the Request of the King of *England*, that *Spain* resolv'd to treat of a Peace with *Portugal*, and had even given the *Portuguese* an Equality in the Conference which had already been holden. That Chancellor *Hide* was at present as much for the Interests of *Spain*, as he had formerly been against them; that the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, and the Marriage with the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, had got him the ill Will of the Parliament and People, which he hop'd to regain by procuring a glorious and advantageous Peace for *Portugal*, and ease the King his Master of the Burthen of the Expence, in the Assistance he was oblig'd to give his Brother-in-law: The said Secretary has distributed several Letters to the

Merchants of *Rotterdam* from those of *Antwerp*, signifying to them, that they shou'd not engage themselves to remove to *Dunkirk*; that the Freedom was taken off, and Duties paid on Merchandizes imported and exported at that Place.

This is the Substance of all I have learn'd, and I have observ'd that this way of negotiating is very agreeable to the Cities; and by entering into their Interests, he pretends to insinuate the other Affairs more easily into their Minds, which oblig'd me to tell the Pensionary of *Holland*, and the first Magistrate, who told me all this with great Confidence as a Secret, That they ought to be very jealous of this way of Proceeding by Don *Estevan de Gamarre*; that 'twas easie to perceive, he endeavour'd, by flattering them as to their Trade, to pass this League, and all these Opinions for things advantageous to the State, not letting them consider they cannot do it, nor give Credit to these Chimera's, without disobling your Majesty, and making him do things quite contrary to his Intentions; in which all the Trade of the Country wou'd receive more Prejudice, than by the Alteration a few Merchants going to live at *Dunkirk* among a Garrison of 3000 Men cou'd make: That I cou'd not believe a Place of War, as that was, wou'd be a Temptation to Merchants to leave the fine Cities of *Holland*, where they enjoy'd the Quiet and Freedom of Trade; and I beg'd 'em therefore not to be too forward to give into this Snare, but to reflect upon it. They lik'd the Reason I made use of, and promis'd so to carry themselves in the Affair that I shou'd be satisfy'd, and to advise me of every thing that pass in their City, if I wou'd keep it secret; and I have Reason to believe they are convinc'd all I have said to them thereon is for the great Advantage of their Cities and their State.

I have not been at *Amsterdam*, because the Pensionary, whose name is Monsieur *de Groot*, is Brother-in-Law

Law to Monsieur *de Montbas*, who was order'd by your Majesty to go out of the Kingdom, for a Business in which his Conduct was not agreeable to your Majesty's Pleasure: Since that time the said *Sieur de Groot* does not fall in with your Majesty's Interests at *Amsterdam*, his Brother-in-Law *Montbas* endeavours to bring him over again; he's a Man of Sense and Resolution, and has a very great Reputation in his City. I shall omit nothing to recover him to his former Sentiments. As soon as I came back to the *Hague*, I was told, *Richard*, Secretary to the *Spanish* Embassy, had been shut up with Monsieur *de Wit* two Hours; I thought it proper to give him a Visit, to see if he would let me know any thing of what past between him and *Richard*: I found him very reserv'd, he only told me he had advice from several Hands, importing, that the Pope expected your Majesty's Army at *Rome*, and not appearing to be much concern'd at it, he must certainly depend upon Assistance from some great Power; but your Majesty was above all. This Discourse seeming to me to be very dry and close, and not being willing to say any thing to him, which might give him to understand, I knew more than he had told me, for fear it might have been prejudicial to my Friends, I only reply'd, your Majesty, whenever you should have any Quarrel in *Italy* or elsewhere, would be strong enough to go through with it, and would know who were your good Friends and Allies; by the Part they took in it; and after that make a Difference between them, according to their Proceedings in the Conjunctions that should happen. He then told me, Monsieur *Boreel* wrote them, your Majesty still insisted on the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*'s being compriz'd in the Ratification of the Treaty made at *Paris*, at which he was very much surpriz'd, in as much as 'twas a thing quite different from it; that if, when the Exchange of the Ratifications were made, your Majesty demanded the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and at the same time the States demanded the Guaranty of the Treaties of *England* and

the Country of *Outremense*, he believ'd the Provinces would be easily brought to it, on account of their Confidence in the Security of a Treaty; but in the way your Majesty desir'd it, one could not be certain that there might not in the mean time be some other Treaty offer'd to them, which would cause the same Difficulty, and the same Delay; and that he hop'd he had got over all things for your Majesty's Interests among so many different Opinions, by making use of the Safety and Certainty there were in whatever your Majesty promis'd. That he shou'd have nothing to say to them, when they observ'd an Alteration, and that they wou'd tell him, in the Treaty which was sign'd, there was not a Word said of *Dunkirk*, but that the Exchange of the Ratifications shou'd be made in three Months, which has been punctually perform'd on their Parts. I thought I cou'd not better destroy all these Reasons, than by reading to him that Article of the Letter your Majesty writ me the 26th, wherein you did me the Honour to explain to me, very plainly and forcibly, the Reasons why you cou'd not Exchange the Ratifications without the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*. I read him also the Article that related to the Freedom of *Dunkirk*. He answer'd, as to the first, he doubted not your Majesty wou'd find out Reasons to gain your Ends, but there was but one to make every Body of the same Mind, and that was what he had urg'd to me, the unmoveable Safety and Certainty they had in a Treaty made in the Presence of your Majesty, and sign'd by you.

As to the second, he laugh'd, and said he wou'd anticipate the Remedy which was brought to their Disease. But that he told me plainly, above 600 Seamen had left *Holland*, and he foresaw well enough the Mischief this Freedom wou'd cause to them; however if the things that had been promis'd were perform'd, that shou'd be past over.

There is not a more cunning Person, nor a Man of a better Head, than the *Sieur de Wit*; he found out quickly

quickly to what End your Majesty wrote me about that Freedom: I shall, however, make use of it in other Places where Peoples Discernment is not so quick. In the mean time, I most humbly entreat your Majesty to do me the honour to write me your Intentions on what's above-written, and how I ought to govern my self, in case these Informations shoud be true; as also to advise me if they are false, for if they are, I ought to carry my self after another manner with these People here. But if they perceive your Majesty is going to have a War on your Hands, they will always have Pretences, thro' the Constitution of their Government, to delay the Resolutions of the Provinces in the Affairs you Espouse; I shall behave my self punctually according to the Orders I receive from your Majesty. In all my Conversation with Monsieur *de Wit*, every thing pass with a great deal of Civility; he observ'd I was not very well pleas'd with the beginning; neither was he with the end, when I read him the two Articles of your Majesty's Letter; and indeed, I do not tell your Majesty that I gain'd any thing upon him.

The levying the Distress on *Ravestein*, and the Citation of the Person of the Duke of *Newburgh*, are not yet made, as your Majesty thought; your Majesty will see, by a Memorial presented to me by a Citizen of *Ravestein*, that the States continue to proceed against them, which is caus'd by the Stay of the Baron *de Lerode* at *Liege*. I have written him to hasten hither, and Monsieur *de Wit* has confirm'd the Promise he made me touching the Affair of *Zewth* and *Ravestein*; the levying the Distress is only to be dont in case the Duke of *Newburgh* delays sending a Power to conclude the Matter, which he has not yet done.

The Affair of *Maltha* is now on the Anvil. The Commissioners of the Cities concern'd are assembled, and I am promis'd an Answer next Week.

'As to *Rhinberg*, I believe the Elector of *Cologne* will be satisfy'd as to his Right to the Place; for the raising of it is declar'd not to be expected, only to keep to what has been agreed on by the Treaty. There's no Body yet come here on the Part of that Elector, to inform me what it is he wou'd have negotiated with the States. Monsieur *de Reinswouw*, Deputy of the Province of *Utrecht*, and President for the Week, has got the Assembly to Order a Deputation to me from the States, for the Restitution of the Principality of *Orange*; 'twas rejected last Week, and this was procur'd now by Monsieur *de Reinswouw*. Monsieur *de Ghent* talk'd of it to me, as a thing which the States only recommended, to acquit themselves to the House of *Orange*. I reply'd, I declar'd a long while ago you wou'd have a Catholick Governor, and that I did not think you wou'd remit any thing in that Point; that I wou'd give your Majesty an account of their Demands. I then discours'd 'em about the Affairs of *Maltha*, and pray'd them to give me an Answer: They told me, the Commissioners had Orders to labour about them incessantly, and make their Report. I again let them know, that if this Business was so dilatory, and the Gentlemen of *Maltha* had not Satisfaction, your Majesty cou'd not stop their making Reprisals any longer. The Bishop of *Munster's* Deputy is here; he desires that Affair might not be proceeded farther in, 'till the Deputies of the Province of *Guelderland* had set forth their Right to the Sovereignty of *Borkelo*. His Behaviour has been so ill, that he visited privately the Sieur *Friquet*, Resident for the Emperor, before he gave me a Visit. I am assur'd of it, tho' he denies it. Nay, he declar'd to the Sieur *Friquet*, that the Bishop his Master wou'd owe all to the Emperor, and that he only desir'd your Majesty's Protection out of Form. This Deputy, and he who manages the Affairs of *Maltha*, are altogether Dependants on the Emperor and King of *Spain's* Ministers, and Business cannot well go forward when one has to

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do with such sort of Men, who spoil every thing by their ill Conduct; however we might otherwise manage it.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
February 2, 1663.

PROvided the Sieurs *Friquet's* and *Riehard's* Endeavours to effect the defensive League for the seventeen Provinces are not successful, as you assure me they are not, we need not trouble our selves much concerning their other Efforts to hinder the Merchants removing to *Dunkirk*, by saying the Freedom I have granted that City is only an Illusion; for all your Industry to convince them of the Truth and Security of that Freedom would produce a worse Effect, since we must by all Means avoid encreasing the Jealousies of the Provinces, that this Freedom will to their Damage draw away a great Part of their Trade, and consequently their Gain, and 'tis for this Reason chiefly that the Offices are not yet remov'd from the *Hill* to be transfer'd to, the *River d'A*; according to your Proposition, that it might be done without falling into the Inconveniencies I have mention'd, besides some others which cannot be avoided, and which I have charg'd the *Sieur Colbert* to write you of more particularly, when he answers the Letter you wrote him, and he read me. When the *Sieur de Wit* represented to you, that the Treaty which was made here, containing that the Ratifications should be exchang'd in three Months, and that not being done, there seem'd to be no entire Safety in Treaties; he had Reason on his side, but 'tis no new Inconvenience; for no Body ever yet thought a Treaty sure and compleat 'till the Ratifications were exchang'd, each of the Parties contracting, having 'till then a Power and Right to go from it if it pleases; which however is not my Intention

tion in this: On the contrary, I am ready to exchange them at any time, and the delay is caus'd only by the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, which cannot be imputed to me, but only to the Constitution of their State, which does not permit 'em to go faster. I am very well pleas'd with what the said *Sieur de Wit* said to you, that a seperate Treaty for the Guaranties of *Dunkirk*, *England*, and the Country of *Onstremense* should be made, and the Ratifications of the Treaty of *Paris* and of this new Treaty, be exchange'd at one time, that the Former may not seem to be chang'd or delay'd by any new Proposal.

Since the States could not conclude a Treaty with *Tripoli*, it would be more for the Interest of their Trade, and the Good of Christendom, not to Ratifie those *de Ruyter* made with *Algiers* and *Tunis*. For 'tis not to be question'd, but the chief Pirates at those two Cities will remove to *Tripoli*, to continue there their Piracies on the States Ships, which carry on the greatest Part of the Trade of the *Mediterranean*: You behav'd your self very well with Respect to the Prince's Dowager of *Orange*: If the Elector of *Brandenburgh* shou'd send the *Baron de Blommendal*, Brother-in-Law to the *Baron de Swerin* to me, as 'tis said he intends, and I think fit you should, upon what he's charg'd to say to me, behave your self otherwise towards that Princess, I shall let you know it.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
February 8, 1663.

I Have receiv'd the Letter your Majesty did me the Honour to write, of the second Instant, and an Hour after Monsieur *de Wit* came to tell me, Moun-sieur *Boreel* their Ambassador, has written to the States, that your Majesty has given me Orders touching the Affair of the Exchange of the Ratifications. I told him, that

that upon the Conferences we had had together, after I had given your Majesty an account of 'em, you had writt'n me, you approv'd that the Treaties of Guaranty for *Dunkirk*, and *England*, and *Ostremerse* should be separate, and the Ratifications be both exchange'd at the same time, to avoid the Complaint he gave me to understand the Provinces would make at the altering of a Treaty made in your Majesty's Presence, by a new Proposition, of which no mention was made in any Article of the said Treaty. He told me, the States had appointed a Deputation to me, to desire I would write again to your Majesty, and pray you to give 'em Satisfaction as to the Exchange of the Ratifications before the Treaties of Guaranty were ratify'd, and that they could not comprehend, why your Majesty should put off a Thing promis'd and agreed upon in your Presence; that the States had great Cause to suspect something else might happen out to delay the said Exchange, since their Ambassador had sent them Complaints, that are positively against what was agreed upon in the Treaty: At the same time came the States-Deputies, who talk'd to me to the same Purpose, and agreeably to what Monsieur *de Wit* had said, leaving the Memorial hereunto annex'd with me. I answer'd, your Majesty was ready to exchange the Ratifications, when those of the Guaranty for the new Treaties were exchange'd; that you did not hesitate about it, and the Delays were owing only to the Constitution of their State, which did not permit them to go faster; but as soon as they were ready, your Majesty would be ready also: That to bring Matters to a speedy Conclusion, 'twould be much better for 'em to get the Consent of the Provinces for this new Treaty of Guaranty, than dispute without advancing any farther: That they might have twice had the Consent of the Provinces, since your Majesty first declar'd, you desir'd the Treaty of *Dunkirk* should be compriz'd in the Guaranty. So that I might tell them, 'twas their

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own Fault if the Affair was not terminated: They are a sort of People that are not to be convinc'd by Reasons; they went away not very well satisfy'd in all Appearance. Monsieur *de Wit* staid an Hour with me after they were gone, telling me, that the Provinces could not be perswaded to the contrary, but that the delay of the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty must be with a Design, which had something in it that was not sincere; and tho' he was satisfy'd there was nothing in it of that Nature, through the great Confidence he had in your Majesty's Word, he confest to me he had not Credit enough among them to convince them of this Truth; that he had done all which lay in his Power, tho' without Success, as also with reference to the Deputation that had been made me about the Restitution of *Orange*, to which he did not consent, and was very glad to see the Answer I gave the Commissioners; that several who approv'd of it, say, they might very well have spar'd the drawing from you such an Answer. I endeavour'd to make it as civil as possible, but I thought it proper to tell them, your Majesty loving the Prince as your Relation, would be glad to see the Care they took of his Interests, and that would occasion your Majesty to be the more ready for the future to recommend to them the Interests of the said Prince in this Country.

I then discours'd the *Sieur de Wit* about the News I had learn'd, of which I gave your Majesty Advice by the last Post; he said he did not believe it, and that *Esteven de Gamarre* had said still more to him in several Conferences, to convince him of the Advantage this State would receive by that League, and that he had often known such sort of News be dispers'd by his Emissaries; that he could assure me, as long as the States had any hopes of his Majesty's good Graces, and that they were engag'd in his Interests by a Treaty, no such Proposal would ever be hearken'd to, and that he should have notice whatever pass'd in it. I
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most humbly beg your Majesty to reflect on the Complaints the States make of the Infractions of the Treaty, as also on the Resolution taken in *Holland* for the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and if your Majesty thinks it strong enough, having relation singly to your Treaty of *Paris*, or if to make it stronger, 'twould not be more proper to have it said in the States Act, the Place of *Dunkirk* shall be Guaranteed as long as 'tis in your Majesty's Power and Hands; for methinks by Guaranteeing only the Treaty of *Dunkirk* simply, 'tis only to Guarant it against him with whom 'twas made, which is the King of *England*, and that's of no use to us. I spoke to Monsieur *de Wit* to this Purpose, who told me the Province of *Holland* had conceiv'd it as their Act imported, and that it meant the Place was in the Guaranty as well as the Treaty. One cannot be too clear and plain in treating with these Men here; I find Monsieur *de Wit* is enough Embarrass'd with them; he has occasion of all his Address to support himself; he has mov'd it to the most powerful Cities to agree, that a new Treaty be made for the Guaranty of that of *Dunkirk*, and those the State has made, and afterwards exchange all the Ratifications together: But he was at first told, that was not a Proposition agreeable to what had been agreed on in the King's Presence. The said *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, the Proposition came not from him, and that I had made it to him; turning it off thus, for fear if he had said it came from himself, they should have been more backward in agreeing to it. He has been very much mortify'd, in not being able to continue the *Sieur de Graef*, his Uncle, Regent and Burgomaster of the City of *Amsterdam*. The *Sieur Van Horne* is put in his Place; he's an old Friend of mine, and, I hope, I shall have an Interest in him. I must humbly pray your Majesty to take this Dispatch into your serious Consideration, and to suffer me to say, that if the Alliance with the States is better than others, 'twill be necessary to put an End to the Execution of the Treaty forthwith, and give 'em Satisfaction

isfaction on the Infraction which has been made in it; if on the contrary your Majesty does not think it for your Advantage to continue it, that with *England* should be made before these People perceive it; because, I find, 'tis a very great Inconvenience to your Majesty's Service to remain in the suspense we are now in. It cools the Affections of those who are for us, gives the contrary Cabals an Opportunity to strengthen themselves in the Cities by this delay, and insinuates into Mens Minds an infinite Number of Things, which it will be almost impossible to destroy; and what is most to be fear'd, the Perswasions of the *Spaniards* for the Union of the Seventeen Provinces, and the ease they make it appear to them, with which they might maintain themselves against any one whatsoever, for this is what they are always arguing upon. I most humbly beg your Majesty's Pardon, if I have spoken my Sentiments with too much Liberty, being carry'd to it only by the Passion and Zeal I have for your Majesty's Service, and I shall wait for your Orders thereon, that I may behave my self according to what you shall please to Command.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
February 9, 1663.

I Begin to be sensible of the Benefit I promis'd my self from the Choice I made of you for the Ambassy of *Holland*, and the Success of your Journey to *Rotterdam* is a good Proof of it; it being easie to see that no Body who did not so well know the Country, and had such an Acquaintance there as you, cou'd in a long time have discover'd the ill Seed of the false News and dangerous Maxims *Gamarre* sows in the Minds of the People by his Secretary, and hopes to Cultivate it after his Arrival. They wou'd not have
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known how to stifle the ill Fruit, *Gamarre* wou'd draw from it, before its Birth.

'Tis without doubt that the Plan of the Affairs and Designs of the chief Potentates of Christendom, as *Gamarre* has drawn it up, to gain his Ends, is artful enough, and colour'd with enough specious Pretences to deceive, and impose on the Mind of a Man of more Sense and Experience than a Burgomaster of *Rotterdam* may be. But when we narrowly examine the fine Plan he has been at so much Pains to draw up, 'tis very easie to destroy it, because it has no manner of Foundation, and *Richard* hardly said one word to the Pensionary of that City, which is not false.

For in the first Place, 'tis false that the Emperor and King of *Spain* intend to help the Pope; the Nuncio's at *Vienna* and *Madrid* have never receiv'd any Answer to the Demands they have made, but imperious Negotiations and very lively Instances on the part of the latter for my Satisfaction. The Emperor has besides, to oblige me, and take away all cause of Jealousie and Discontent from me, turn'd the Marquiss *Matey*, who was his Minister at *Rome*, out of his Service; only because he had accepted an Employment the Pope had given him. As to the King, my Father-in-law, I only desir'd three Things of him on this Occasion, which he readily granted me; Passage for my Army thro' his Territories; that he forbid his Ambassador, *Don Pedro d'Arragon*, to enter *Rome* 'till the Pope has given me Satisfaction; and gave me his Word he wou'd never receive into his Service or Protection the House of *Chigi*, or Cardinal *Imperiali*.

As to the *German* Troops which *Gamarre* has given out to be on their March, this Particular is false also; for no Troops have hitherto march'd, as well because the Viceroy of *Naples* has not been able to remit to *Vienna* the Sums that must go to pay the Soldiers first, and those necessary to Quarter 'em in *Tirol*, and the *Grisons* Country, and for the Expence of Transportation and Victuals; as also, because the Emperor

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is not himself very fure of a Peace with the *Turks*; 'tis true, there's great likelihood that all these Difficulties will be quickly surmounted, and that the Body of 5000 Men, viz. 1500 Horse, and 3500 Foot, which the Emperor has promis'd the King of *Spain* to serve him in the War with *Portugal*, will soon break up from their Quarters to march some to their Transportation at *Trieste*, to go to *Naples*, and the others to go directly thro' the *Milanese* to *Spain* by Land, when they see what the Difference between me and the Court of *Rome* will come to. But for a great many Reasons I have no cause to imagine, as you'll easily believe, the King my Father-in-law will assist the Pope, or that his Design in leaving this Body in *Italy*, is any thing more than to secure his own Territories, while my Army passes thro' them, as Prudence and good Policy require.

'Tis also false that there is any solid Negotiation for a Treaty of Peace between *Spain* and *Portugal*. 'Tis true, some Proposals have been made, but the *Portuguese* believe 'tis only to amuse them, and hinder their making the necessary Preparations for their Defence the next Campaign. The last Advice I had from the Archbishop of *Ambrun* imports, that the King of *Portugal* had detain'd one *Nunez de Aama* his Subject, whom the *Spaniards* had permitted to come to *Madrid* under Pretence of a Law-Suit, and that the pretended Negotiation was vanish'd.

Besides, 'twou'd be falser still, supposing that Accommodation was concluded by the *Spaniards*, that they cou'd make use of 30000 Men, which *Esteven de Gamarre* says they employ in the War with *Portugal*; for the same Advices from *Madrid* assure us, that Don *John* of *Austria*, without the Succours from *Italy*, cannot take the Field with above 5000 Foot.

What has been lately reported, as to the State of *Cazall*, is not truer; and that Report is spread against me out of Envy, only to raise a Jealousie of my Power in other Princes; for I can assure you, that hitherto I have not caus'd it to be mention'd. to the Duke

Duke of *Mantua*, nor has he to me. But I believe the said Duke is not sorry that the Report is so current, because he hopes the Fright the *Spaniards* will be in at this News, will oblige 'em to pay more punctually than they have yet done the Sums they promis'd him for the Maintenance of the Garrison of that Place. Further, supposing there was such a Treaty on Foot between me and the said Duke, of which there's no likelihood, I don't think my Father-in-law wou'd be so forward as Don *Esteven de Gamarre* makes him, rather to hazard the loss of the State of *Milan*, than suffer me to get such an Acquisition; and tho' he shou'd resolve to do so, you may imagine I shou'd not be much troubled at it. But, as I have already said, there's no Foundation for this Report which makes such a noise in the World, and has alarm'd so many People. All that Don *Esteven de Gamarre* told the Burgo-master relating to *England*, and the alteration of Chancellor *Hyde's* Sentiments, is no less false than the rest. The King of *Spain* has made no Proposals of an Accommodation with the King of *England*, and he has no Minister at *London* that can be trusted with an Affair of so much Weight. I know on the contrary from very good Hands, that the *Spaniards* believing *Batteville's* Embassy, to which the *English* return'd no Answer, was already more than they ought to have done in Honour, are resolv'd not to take any step of that Nature before the King of *England* has demonstrated that he desires that Union, by sending an Ambassador to *Madrid*; to which the said King is not at all dispos'd, and you know better than any one, what he told you when you left *London*, of his Passion, and the Interest he thought he had to be closely ally'd to me.

And, as I observe, *Esteven de Gamarre* wou'd represent this Affair of *Rome* as an Incident which is like to bring me into great Trouble, and raise all the other Princes against me, in which it may be fear'd the State of the *United Provinces* considering our late Alliance may at last be involv'd, so you may tell the

Sieur *de Wit* from me, that I take him to be too wise and clear-sighted, not to perceive 'tis a meer Trifle, which I can get clear of, and to my Advantage, whenever I please. The Accommodation having already miss'd, being made only by the Word *Relegatus*, which the Pope scruples to insert in a Brief concerning Cardinal *Imperiale*; tho' in Effect, he has already granted me the Substance of it.

I leave it to any one to judge, whether all the Princes of *Italy*, who are so much concern'd in, and afraid of my Arms passing the Mountains, wou'd suffer such a War to be kindled for a Word only, and whether they wou'd not themselves force the Pope, in such a Case of Necessity, to Sacrifice a private Person for the good and safety of the Publick; even tho' a greater Punishment was requir'd than a simple Banishment for a little while.

I wrote to you at large, in my Letter of the 26th past, about the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and the Exchange of the Ratifications of our Treaty; and the Reasons I told you there, which hinder me from altering the Resolutions I have taken, are so strong, that I doubt not they fully convinc'd the Sieur *de Wit*'s Judgment. Thus you have seen, that instead of opposing them, he's forc'd to represent that the Provinces by this delay, which however is occasion'd by themselves, may be apt to mistrust that Treaties, tho' sign'd, have not always an immoveable Security and Firmness. This Consideration is so weak, 'tis not worth answering; for every one knows a Treaty sign'd is not valid, 'till 'tis ratify'd by the Principals on one Side and t'other of the Deputies that treated together and sign'd it, and that 'till the reciprocal delivery of the Ratifications, each Party may govern himself, as Occurrences may require, without the others having any reason to complain that the Treaty is in any wise broken; indeed, if this Exchange is delay'd thro' Caprice, without alledging a reasonable Cause, there's a great deal to be said against such a Proceeding. But what

I have said to you carries such strength with it, that without the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, I shou'd be ty'd to break for the States whenever they shall be attack'd, while they remain free, and may stand still if *Spain* shou'd attack me for *Dunkirk*; I can't comprehend how 'tis possible for them, with you, not to yield presently to such a Consideration, which does not admit of a good Answer.

As to what the *Sieur de Wit* represented to you, of the Provinces not being sure that while they are considering of this Matter, some other may not arise to cause the same Difficulties and Delays; I perceive thereby that what *Richard* said of the Purchase of *Cazal* made an Impression on him; but to rid him of it, I think proper that you assure him from me, I will be ready to Exchange the Ratifications as soon as the States have agreed to the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, without losing a Day's time to wait for the Guaranty of the other Treaties which I may make hereafter.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :

February 15, 1663.

I Receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me, the 9th of this Month. I did not omit representing to Messieurs the States, and particularly to Monsieur *de Wit*, the Reasons contain'd in all your Majesty's Dispatches against the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty of Peace, unless the Guaranty of *Dunkirk* was agreed to, your Majesty being satisfy'd that the Exchange of the two Ratifications should be made at the same time; and to take off the Jealousie your Majesty very well observ'd they might have of the Intervention of any other Treaty, which might occasion the same Difficulties and Delays, I assur'd them, in your Majesty's Name,

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you wou'd be ready to exchange the Ratifications as soon as the States have agreed to the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, without losing a Day's time to wait for the Guaranty of the other Treaties your Majesty may make hereafter; and to shew the more powerfully with what Sincerity your Majesty proceeds in this Affair, your Majesty has caus'd a Decree to be issu'd out, and immediately sent to All your Ports, that their Subjects may enjoy the Favour your Majesty has granted them touching the Duty of 30 Sells a Ton, without waiting for this Exchange. I shall give them all these Reasons, which I extracted out of your Majesty's Dispatches, in writing.

Yesterday at two a Clock Monsieur *de Wis* sent to demand Audience of me, and the Commence of the States at four.

The *Seur de Wis* began the Conference with the Exchange of the Ratifications; he continues to say, that the delay of the Exchanges of the Treaty made at *Paris* has an ill Effect. That most of the Deputies of the Cities cannot imagine but there must be some Mystery in it, and brought Thoughts into their Minds which will cause Trouble in the Provinces. That his Design being to serve your Majesty; and follow your Intentions, he must not have the only safe Means to manage them taken out of his Hands.

That he has done his utmost to have the Treaty of *Dunkirk* guaranteed in the Form of the Act of Resolution of the Province of *Holland*; to which *Zeeland*, *Guelderland*, *Overijssel* and *Utrecht*, have consented; that he doubts not the other Provinces will do the same; but they must be manag'd in order to it, which will be easily done when he can shew them they are engag'd to it by the Treaty of *Paris*, and by your Majesty's reciprocal Guaranty of the Treaties of *England*, *Portugal*, and the Country of *Onsrevense*; whereas, if the Matter is to be debated anew in all the Provinces, and the first Treaty be not executed in Form according to the Promises made, he cannot be cer-
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tain of Success; the Provinces meeting only when they please, and each debating Matters among themselves, so that things cannot be brought about as if he were to be present; and as he shall endeavour to do in the Assembly of *Holland*, which is to meet the 27th of this Month at the *Hague*. He added, your Majesty ought to be satisfy'd of his Sincerity, since he has always put off all Resolutions that were contrary to your Interests, and would never depart from entering into an Alliance with *France*, and a closer one than with any other Prince. That there are two very strong Reasons for'r, one to take away all manner of Hope from the *Spanish* Cabal and the other Factions, that their League, and the Union of the seventeen Provinces can be effected, (which they dare not speak of if the Treaty was executed;) and the other, that it will give him more Authority to speak to, and act with the States, than he can have while the Exchange of the Ratifications are retarded. The States laying it at his Door, because he propos'd and press'd the Treaty continually, and that very dangerous Reflections are made on it, which will pass into the Provinces, where there are some who even say, Since the Treaty of *Paris* is not executed they may go off from it, and 'twou'd be better for them, because your Majesty would infallibly in a little while engage them in a War with the King of *Spain*, which they do not desire. The said *Sieur de Wis* told me afterwards, if your Majesty knew the Men as well as he, you wou'd bring 'em to what you pleas'd without giving them any Umbrage, and that he pray'd you to reflect upon what he had told me. That as to the Proposal I made him, to put into the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, Towards all, and against all, as long as it shall be in your Majesty's Power and Hands, he said Care must be taken not to word it so, because from the very first Minute of its being thus propos'd, 'twou'd come into every one's Head, that the Meaning was a Rupture with *Spain*.

That his Opinion was, a Treaty made and pass'd by the Provinces, in Form of the Act of the Declaration of the Province of *Holland*, wou'd have the same Effect, in as much as in case of any Difficulty made in it by the other Provinces, he shall have ground to tell them, *Holland* and the Provinces abovemention'd have done it by Vertue of the Engagement of the Treaty of *Paris*, and the like Guaranty from your Majesty for three other Treaties, and then the Affair will pass with ease. After which, your Majesty may find they will be engag'd, without being able to go back, to break with the Emperor, if your Majesty does. He added, he wish'd heartily this Dispute was at an end, and that the ending it wou'd give him an Opportunity to make Proposals hereafter, which he thought very much for your Majesty's Advantage; but a stop was now put to any such thing. I am convinc'd he talkt sincerely to me, and the rather, because I see plainly enough what Disposition these People have, not to enter into a stricter Alliance with *France*, and still to preserve one with *Spain*, which they may be drawn from by the Address of the *Sieur de Wit*, when he shall be supported by a Treaty made with your Majesty. In this I am very much confirm'd by his way of carrying himself, which seem'd to me to be entirely sincere.

I am also convinc'd, that the Reports which have been made me of certain Discourse of the chief of the States, that they don't take the Guaranty of *Dunkirk* to engage them against the King of *Spain*, but against the King of *England*, came from the *Spanish* Cabal, thinking by that to raise a Difficulty, which wou'd cause a delay of the Conclusion of the Affair; and I confess, I gave into this Deceit. What I have learn'd of it was from the Burgomaster of *Rotterdam*, whom *Richard* wou'd have got to have insinuated it to me, and he gave me Notice of it, as also a Copy of the Letter here inclos'd, by which your Majesty will see what Advice the States have receiv'd from their Agent at *Brussels*.

I am very glad all the Reports of the *Spaniards* are false, and that an Accommodation with the Pope hangs only for so little a thing as a Word. They don't however give over trying all Artifices which they think can turn to their Advantage. They spread a Rumour about two Days ago, as ridiculous as the rest, publishing thro' the Cities that *Strasbourg* demands the Emperor and the neighbouring Princes Protection against your Majesty; that you have got the Bishoprick to be given to the Count *de Furstembergh*, to have a Pretence to attack that City, in favour of the Bishop's Interests; that there's no neighbouring State secure against so great a Power, unless all Unite together; and they do all they can to raise Apprehensions in Peoples Minds here of your Majesty's Greatness and Ambition, and at the same time make themselves so poor and so miserable, that they cannot support themselves without their Assistance. 'Tis the same *Burgomaster* who gave me this Information, and I assure your Majesty, that that Man alone keeps his City in your Majesty's Interests. I have observ'd Monsieur *de Wis* is the more concern'd to desire that the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty of *Paris* be made before that of the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, for that, by obtaining it, 'twill give him a great Reputation in the Assembly of *Holland*; and 'tis no small thing to gain this Man over to your Majesty's Interests so entirely, as I am sure he'll be, if in Consideration of him only your Majesty, to encrease his Credit and Authority, shou'd comply in a thing you have reason to Dispute. And as to the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, your Majesty need not doubt but 'twill be made; I see it plainly enough to assure your Majesty that it will be done; and that even by Monsieur *de Wis*'s Means they will here enter into a closer Union with your Majesty, if the King of *Spain* shou'd die. We have already begun to talk of it between our selves, and I perceive he's dispos'd to take right Measures. But he will be quite another Man, when he finds himself

so oblig'd to your Majesty, as he will be, if this Affair be ended according to his Desire.

Your Majesty will be pleas'd to excuse me for speaking my Opinion with too much Liberty; but I believe all the Measures the *Spaniards* take ought to be broken by finishing this Affair, and after that your Majesty will have no more trouble in this Country, their Artifices will be known, and their Cabal dispers'd.

All the other Matters your Majesty has given me in Charge to negotiate, are referr'd to this Assembly; I shall omit nothing to dispose the Committee as much as I can to be favourable to us, and this first Difficulty being remov'd I hope for Success.

The Committee giving me in writing the Reasons they urg'd at our Conference, I send them to your Majesty. 'Tis their Answer to a Memorial I gave them, wherein the Reasons contain'd in your Majesty's Dispatches were laid open. The Prince of *Tarente* has heard of the Order I have receiv'd from your Majesty, in favour of the Princes of *Nassau*, which touches him very much; his Family having always taken Place of theirs, in all the Courts of *Germany*. He desir'd me to send this Memorial to your Majesty, which justifies the Proposition of his Claim, and I ought to do him the Justice to tell your Majesty, that no Body can act with more Zeal and Affection for your Majesty's Interests than he does with all his Friends, and he has a great many in the Province of *Holland*.

I most humbly pray your Majesty to do me the Honour to believe I am very really, &c.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
February 16, 1663.

AFTER having maturely weigh'd all you write me, upon the two Points of the Exchange of the Ratification, and the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and consider'd on one hand the indispenfable Necessity I am in to have these two Affairs go on with equal Pace, that the latter may not be left uncertain; and on the other hand, the ill Disposition the delay of the Exchange may create in Mens Minds with you; I have found out an Expedient, wherein it seems to me each Party may equally find Satisfaction and Safety. I have caus'd it to be couch'd in a Writing, which I thought proper for *Ligne* to carry from me to their Ambassador *Boreel*, and send you at the same time a Copy, that you may there talk conformably to it. The Piece is so clear, and contains such palpable Reasons, that 'tis Superfluous to make any Comment on it to justify its Equity; and to say truth, if the States reject this Expedient, I shall have cause to suspect their Intention is not fair and sincere with respect to the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and consequently so much the more Reason not to exchange the Ratifications, 'till the said States have given me that Guaranty in the Form I desire it, that is not only for the Treaty, but for the Place too, while the Treaty shall last.

From

Memorial given in the King's Name by Monsieur de Lionne to the Ambassador Boreel at Paris, the 16th of February, 1663, concerning the Ratification of the Treaty of Paris of the 27th of April, 1662, and the Guaranty of Dunkirk. A Copy of which was sent to the Count D'Estrades.

THE King has no less Desire than the States that the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty they have made with his Majesty be executed without any further delay:

The said Lords the States know, That since the Conclusion of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, which gives his Majesty Occasion and Right to demand, that this new Acquisition be compris'd in the Guaranty, for that the Ratifications are not yet exchange'd, his Majesty has not stopt the Exchange; but if the Affair has been in any wise retarded, it proceeds only from the Constitution of the State of the *United Provinces*, which does not suffer them to go faster.

The said Lords the States know also the indispensable Reasons that oblige his Majesty to desire the *United Provinces* to engage themselves in the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, as well as the other Towns which belong to him. For 'twould be to show the Aggressors the Gate and Place by which they might attack *France*, without the said Lords the States being oblig'd to assist him; and the said Lords the States may consider, with their usual Prudence and Equity, if it would be just that the King should be ty'd and bound to break for them against all Aggressors, and that the said Lords the States

States should not be oblig'd to break for *France*, against those who would attack his Majesty under colour of *Dunkirk*.

In the mean while, to shew with what Sincerity his Majesty proceeds in this Affair, his Majesty declares he's ready to exchange the Ratifications without delay, provided the said Ambassador *Boreel* does at the same time deliver him a Declaration from the said Lords the States, by which they consent that this Exchange shall be understood not to be made, and as not come to pass unless within three Months, reckoning from that Day, the *United Provinces* shall have order'd, that not only the Treaty for the Acquisition of *Dunkirk*, (which would be captious and subject to divers Interpretations) but the Town of *Dunkirk* it self shall be guaranteed to the King by the said Lords the States, as long as the said Treaty shall last, against all Aggressors without Distinction, as also after the same manner as all the other Towns of his Kingdom and Conquests are already compriz'd in the Guaranty of that Treaty.

The said Lords the States may perceive, by the Quality and Sincerity of this Offer, what little Grounds there are for the Suspensions which may have been rais'd, that his Majesty had defer'd the Exchange of the Ratifications, only in Expectation of some new Treaty, which he also intends to have compriz'd in the same Guaranty.

As to the Memorial of Complaints upon some Points of the said Treaty, which has lately been deliver'd to the King's Ambassador by the Deputies of the said Lords the States, his Majesty had before hand of his proper Motion given such Orders, as they will more particularly learn from the said Ambassador, *viva voce*, that he hopes the said Lords the States will on this occasion acknowledge, as well as on all others, that his Majesty has nothing more at Heart than their Interests, their Satisfaction, a sincere Union, and a close Friendship and Correspondence

• dence with their State, and the faithful Accomplish-
 • ment of all he has promis'd.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
 February 22, 1663.

I Have visited the Pensionary, and inform'd him how Industrious some People have been here to hinder your Majesty's having Satisfaction, with reference to the Proposal I made the Lords the States to exchange the Ratifications of the two Treaties together; and at the same time that I thought the assurances I had given them in your Majesty's Name, that no other Treaty should retard the said Exchanges ought to satisfy them, and that your Majesty had done more, by causing a Decree to be issu'd out to put the States Subjects in Possession of the Diminution of 50 Sols a Ton, pursuant to what is stipulated in the Treaty, which you was not oblig'd to do 'till after the Ratifications were exchange'd: That your Majesty would have great Reason to complain, if after all these Advances, and tokens of your plain Dealing and Sincerity, the Lords the States would not pass over a meer piece of Formality, which is nothing in comparison to the Consequences that may come from your Majesty's Opinion of their Proceedings, which shew little Affection or Consideration for you. He reply'd, he was more concern'd in this matter than any Body, as he had given me to understand last Post. That if your Majesty persisted in requiring the two Exchanges to be made at once, 'twas necessary that he on his Part and I on mine should from that time do our utmost to gain over as many Deputies of Cities as we could, and venture the Debate of it in the Assembly; tho' the Success would be dubious, on account of these Peoples Apprehension that they are to be drawn into a War for the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, which the Ministers of *Spain* have power-
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fully insinuated since this Dispute was afoot, and it will encrease if it be not forthwith lessen'd. These Ministers shew them the Advantage of their League and Union, for the Interest of their Trade only; and the better to mark their Security in it, they have given out a Particular of a Fund for maintaining 50000 Foot and 10000 Horse, to be rais'd out of the Duties levy'd in the Seventeen Provinces, and would by a Treaty engage the States to unite their Troops with theirs, in case of an Attack made, or a Declaration of War against one of the Seventeen Provinces; endeavouring to convince 'em, they have nothing to fear if so considerable an Army wastogether. The *Sieur de Wis* told me, all he had been able to do was to tell those who inclin'd most to the Treaty and League, that it would be time enough to talk of it when they should be certain of your Majesty's Intention, by your Answer to the Reasons the Lords the States had given me in writing; and in case the Exchange of the Treaty of *Paris* was still refus'd, it should be debated in the Assembly of *Holland* what would be most for the Advantage of the State. He added, his Opinion was, such a Debate should not be ventur'd; but if your Majesty would agree to the Exchange of the Ratifications, and confide in him for the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, he wou'd do his utmost to get it pass'd to your Majesty's Satisfaction, when he should be able to destroy all the artful Reasons made use of to create a Jealousie and Distrust in this State, of your Majesty's great Power and your Sincerity, with respect to the Treaties not being executed; and at the same time, all the Measures of the *Spanish* Cabal for this pretended League wou'd be broken, for he shou'd be then strong enough to destroy it.

Nevertheless, the Assembly of *Holland* being to meet the 27th of this Month, and there's but a very little time to act, where so many Persons are concern'd, I propos'd to Monsieur *de Wis* (after having thank'd him,

him, for his good Disposition to promote your Majesty's Interests) to go himself to *Amsterdam*, and other Cities, to get Deputies appointed whom he might manage, and that from *Amsterdam* he might send to North *Holland* with the same Design; I having seen the late Prince of *Orange* Practice the same thing, when there was any doubtful Resolution to be taken. He likes this Proposal, but desir'd I would also secure my Friends Voices, particularly those of *Rotterdam* and *Leyden*.

He went to *Amsterdam* the 17th of this Month, under colour of being Godfather to a Child of a Relation of his there; he wrote me the 19th he found Peoples Minds very much alter'd, but hop'd his Journey would not be useless; that he thought it convenient to send Monsieur *de Groot*, Pensionary of *Amsterdam*, to the Cities of North *Holland* on the same Account, he being a Man of Sense in whom we might confide, having also a way of acting proper to dispose them to what he desir'd. That he would stay at *Amsterdam* 'till he came back, and thought he should not be at the *Hague* 'till the 25th of this Month: That he was still of Opinion it would be for your Majesty's Interest to break all the Cabals by exchanging the Ratifications of the Treaty of *Paris*, and not venture what may happen by a Debate in the Assembly of *Holland*.

I am at work on my side to secure as many Deputies of Cities as I can, and particularly those of *Rotterdam* and *Leyden* whom Monsieur *de Wit* recommended to me, and I believe he will be satisfy'd with the Engagements they have enter'd into with me.

Richard press'd the Burgomaster of *Rotterdam* very hard to send a Yacht to *Antwerp* immediately, to bring Don *Esteven de Gamarre* to the *Hague*. The Burgomaster's Son having the chief Post in the Admiralty there, I beg'd him to cause delays in the sending the Yacht, under colour of the Ice, or some other Pretext, that

that we may have the more time to gain over as many Deputies to our Interests as we can, before his Arrival.

Having acquainted the *Sieur de Wit* with what I have learn'd of *Muler's* Voyage to *England*, he told me the Princess Dowager had conceal'd it from, and at the same time had charg'd *Friquet* to negotiate with him, his procuring the States to consent that they would take on them the Prince's Education, that the said Dowager would also do what lay in her Power towards it: The said *Sieur de Wit* answer'd him, that he would never advise the States to take it again, after it had been taken from them.

I thought it my Duty to tell him, his Sentiments and mine did not in that agree, for I was of Opinion he ought to hearken to it; but to add stronger Conditions to it, *viz.* that the Lords the States should not only have the Education of the Prince, but the Tuition and the Management of his Estate, and that the State should make choice of the *Sieur de Wit* to have the chief Charge of his Education, and appoint Persons under him, who should be accountable for all the young Prince's Actions and Sentiments, should breed him up in the Maxims of this State, and render him capable to serve it well when he's grown up, that the good Inclinations which appear in this Child should be fortify'd by his good Council and Advice, and the ill Impressions the Dowager may have given him may be wip'd off by his Care and Prudence, and that this Prince being come to the Age of Distinction would have the last Obligation to him, for drawing him from the Precipice wherein he is going to fall thro' the ill State of his Affairs, and would make him his Friend and his Protector.

That I wou'd add a very powerful Consideration to what I had been saying, in which I confest to him your Majesty's Interest was concern'd, and that is the Security your Majesty would find in the Prince, when he's grown up from an Education which would give
you

you no Suspicion, considering the present Alliance between your Majesty and the States, and the particular Esteem you have for his Person, not doubting but he wou'd always perswade him, and instill such Sentiments into him, as wou'd dispose him to be more for *France* than *England*, in which he would himself be safer, as well on account of the State as on his own particular Account.

He thank'd me for this Proposal, and told me, he would act conformably to it at his return from *Amsterdam*, owning to me that his Trust and Safety were in your Majesty's Friendship, that he wou'd never rely on that of the King of *England*, tho' within these two Months he had receiv'd all the Marks of it imaginable. I observ'd, he was mightily pleas'd with this Discourse; he discover'd to me also in the Course of our Conversation, that he shou'd not be sorry if your Majesty made no Alliance with the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and he's satisfy'd it would very much lessen the Affection of all the Princes of the League of the *Rhine*. He talk'd thus to me on the Information given him, that the Baron *de Bloemendaal* is gone thro' *Brassells*, to wait on your Majesty from the Elector.

I had begun this Letter upon all the Conferences I have had with Monsieur *de Wit*, when I receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me the 16th of this Month; upon which, I must tell your Majesty, that the States having receiv'd the Memorial your Majesty caus'd to be given to Monsieur *Boreel*, by Monsieur *Lionne*, of which I have receiv'd a Copy, have not debated upon it, by reason of Monsieur *de Wit*'s absence, so that I can write nothing positive thereon; I have my Memorial in readiness to present to them, as soon as he returns from *Amsterdam*; but I learn'd by some of my Friends, the States cannot give the Writing your Majesty demands, and that the Provinces must be all reassembled again, to have their Consent to it; which will still give time for new Devices to retard the Conclusion:

clusion: Whereas if your Majesty will, out of regard to Monsieur *de Wit*, only exchange the Ratifications, telling the Ambassador you do it but on Condition that within three Months the States will give you a Guaranty for the Town of *Dunkirk*, and I signifying the same thing to them here, it seems to me, your Majesty will have the same Right not to perform the Treaty, if they do not on their Parts satisfy you as to the Guaranty within three Months; and that will very much shorten Affairs, oblige Monsieur *de Wit* by shewing him 'tis done out of regard only to him, and establish your Majesty's Interest in this Country in such a manner, that *Henry IV.* never had a greater. What I advance to your Majesty, is on knowledge of the Cause, and you need not doubt of having Satisfaction as to the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*; for the Ratifications being exchange'd, Monsieur *de Wit* cannot go off from the Promises he has made me, but we may be sure of all the rest, that Difficulty being remov'd.

I shall not leave off soliciting my Friends, against the *Sieur de Wit's* Arrival, to dispose them to pass the Condition of the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, in the Form your Majesty has sent me. I may by the next Post give you a more exact Account, than I cou'd do by this.

I have already inform'd your Majesty, how cunningly *Richard* work'd it about, to create a Suspicion in me, as to the Form of the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, as if the Lords the States meant only to Guarant the Treaty, and not the Place. But the Matter has been brought to Light, and Monsieur *de Wit* assures me, that the Guaranty, as contain'd in the Act of *Holland*, makes it entirely secure, and that there's nothing to be fear'd on that Account, but that we must avoid raising suspicions in the Minds of Communities; when your Majesty considers the Advantage you will receive by breaking at once all the Measures the *Spaniards* have taken, and manag'd with so much Address, to break off the Correspondence and Union between your

Majesty and this State, I am very certain, you will find you'll get by it a great deal: For we shall after that meet with no Difficulty.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
February 23, 1663.

FURTHER, from whatever Quarter, whether from *Frisquet*, or one of the States, the Discourse you write me of came, that the Provinces do not think themselves oblig'd by guaranting simply the Treaty of *Dunkirk* to Guarant it against the King of *Spain*, but only against the King of *England*; 'tis sufficient, that such arguing shou'd oblige me to be content with nothing but what is very clear, and in no wise subject to different Interpretations; and I wonder you should in that believe you gave into the Snare *Friquet* had laid for you. For suppose himself had only talk'd of it, with a Design to Embarrass the Exchange of the Ratifications, 'tis not of the less Importance to come to an Understanding about it; otherwise I shall myself truly give into another Snare, whatever the Burgo-master of *Rotterdam*, as well affected as he is, may say to the contrary; and you see your self, that the *Sieur de Wis* told you plainly, we should not stir further in this Matter; because, says he, from the Minute such an *Ecclaircissement* should be propos'd, all the Provinces wou'd be against it, imagining it wou'd bring on them a Rupture with *Spain*. Therefore 'tis not their Intention to Guarant *Dunkirk* effectually; if *Spain* shou'd attack me under Colour of the Acquisition I have made. I cannot see how the *Sieur de Wis* could tell you, that they began, with you, to apprehend, I wou'd engage them in a little time in a War with the King of *Spain*. They knew well enough, if the Treaty shou'd be ratify'd, our Alliance wou'd be but defensive, so that if I am the Aggressor in a War they

they are not oblig'd to break also in following my Example; but if I am attack'd under any Pretence whatsoever, be it that of *Dunkirk*, it very much imports me to be assur'd, the States will have no Opportunity to hinder their doing what the Treaty obliges them to. For else, properly speaking, it can never depend upon me, to engage the said States in a War, whatever Desire I should have to do it, either with the King of *Spain*, or any other Aggressor who may attack me.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 March 1, 1663.

I Receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me the 23d of last Month. Pursuant to your Majesty's Order in that of the 16th, I presented last *Saturday* a Memorial to the States, to accompany the Duplicate of the Declaration your Majesty gave their Ambassador, on the Subject of the Exchange of the Ratifications, and the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*. I join'd it to the Answer your Majesty has been pleas'd to make to Monsieur *de Wis*'s Complaints, touching the pretended Contraventions of the Treaty, and prest them to explain themselves on the Guaranty, since your Majesty declar'd your self so favourably concerning the Exchange of the Ratifications. I did not think it proper to present this Memorial sooner, because of the Journey I wrote your Majesty last Post Monsieur *de Wis* had taken to *Amsterdam*, with a particular Design to prepare the Deputies for the Assembly of the States of the Province of *Holland*, which is to open to Morrow, and this Journey was undertaken even for the Advantages of your Majesty's Service. There was no likelihood the States would take a Resolution in an Affair of this Nature, in the absence of this Minister, and I foresaw your Majesty's Declaration would not remove the Difficulties we meet

with here in the Constitution of the States, however, the Minds of the Men were dispos'd to it, and their Disposition, at least all those who have any zeal and Affection for your Majesty's Service, is such as one could wish; It being very certain, the Deputies who compose the Assembly of the States-General, have not Power to give the Assurances your Majesty demands, neither for the Guaranty of the Town, nor even of the Treaty, without express Orders from their Superiors; tho' all the Assembly were very well satisfy'd, and entirely convinc'd of the Sincerity of your Majesty's Intentions. But that they might not exceed their Power, they resolv'd the Declaration should be sent to the States of the Provinces to be examin'd, that they might afterwards come to a Resolution on it. So that the Hopes which were conceiv'd of finding out a way to satisfy your Majesty with respect to the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, and in some manner to give Content to the States, as to the Exchange of the Ratifications, are further off than ever. They don't at all doubt of your Majesty's Intentions, and on their Side they give all the Assurances they are capable of giving: Nevertheless, they find they can't oblige your Majesty to pass over certain Formalities, which if they were pass'd by, wou'd hasten the common Satisfaction of your Majesty and the States.

And in Effect, Monsieur *de Wit* being come back from his Journey, visited me two Days ago; and told me, he was sorry to hear the Design he had to serve your Majesty had succeeded so ill. That 'twas with no other Intention, he let me know the best way would be, not presently to demand an Explanation of the Guaranty, as well for that he thought your Majesty would be contented with the Resolution of the States of *Holland*, because of the Terms he had put in it on purpose, expressing that they would Guarant the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, as much as if it had been made and concluded before the Treaty of Alliance, and had been expressly compriz'd in the general Guaranty, as for that
he

he knew, when your Majesty should, after the exchange of the Ratifications, demand a more particular Explanation, there would be no Difficulty in getting it; whereas they should now meet with such Difficulties as perhaps they may not be able to surmount. That he thought he had done your Majesty a piece of Service in it, by forwarding an Affair, the length of which is very prejudicial to both Parties, because it encourages Cabals, which are form'd here by those who neither love *France*, nor this State. Not but that Monsieur *de Wit* offers to improve your Majesty's Order in Council, of the 26th past, in the Assembly of the States of *Holland*, and elsewhere, relating to the Execution of the Separate Article of the Treaty, and to observe the Sincerity of this Proceeding as truly Royal, thereby to endeavour to bring the States of that Province to explain themselves on the Guaranty, according to your Majesty's Intention. He adds, that after the Resolution has been taken by the States of *Holland*, he may perhaps be able to get some verbal Assurance for the Guaranty from the Deputies of the other Provinces; but that is very uncertain, because they will be afraid of engaging themselves, now the States of the greatest part of the Provinces are about to assemble. As to the Cabals of such as are against your Majesty's Interests, 'tis certain, they are more busie than ever. The Informations I have on all Hands, and those which Monsieur the *Chevalier de Terlon* had during his short stay in this City, confirm that the Ministers of the House of *Austria* are extremely industrious to engage the States to enter into the pretended League with the other Provinces of the *Low-Countries*, by the Umbrage they endeavour to give those Gentlemen of your Majesty's Greatness, and the Weakness of *Spain*: For the Catholick King is, as they give out, so weak, that not being able to defend these Provinces any longer, he will be forc'd to leave them, with the *Infanta*, to the Emperor and his Brother, or else expose them to the Discretion of *France*, which

they report up and down, and have made Impressions on some of the Magistrates, who now are more ready to believe it, than what they said not long since of the *Grandeur of Spain*, and the Forces she could maintain. Such Discourses as these have an ill Effect on the Minds of those who believe their State ought to dread all the neighbouring Powers. They make use also of another Artifice as dangerous as the other, by publishing they will make *Newport* and *Ostend* Free Ports, not with an Intention to render the Freedom of *Dunkirk* useless, but that those Cities coming to your Majesty with the same Advantages, may ruin the Trade of this Country, especially that of *Zealand*; and Trade is the Thing of which they are here most sensible.

Thus much I thought it my Duty to represent to your Majesty, not that I would thereby suggest what Measures your Majesty should take, but that having seriously reflected on these Reasons, as also on those I did my self the Honour to alledge in my former Dispatches, your Majesty may determine, and come to a final Resolution, by judging whether 'twill be best to leave Affairs in the State they are now in, and give the Provinces time to debate the Guaranty conformably to your Majesty's Designs, or whether you'll think it more advantageous to let the Ratifications be exchange'd now, by ordering your Ministers at *Paris* and here to declare, to these Gentlemen, your Majesty does it, because you are satisfy'd the Intentions of this State are good, and because you do not doubt, but the certain Hopes that have been given me concerning the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, in the manner your Majesty desires, will have their Effect; for that 'tis certain, without it, the Exchange wou'd not have been made. As indeed, your Majesty may look upon it as not made, if the States do not Guarant the Town of *Dunkirk*, in the same manner as they guarant other Places which your Majesty possess when the Treaty was sign'd.

Tho'

Tho' in this last Conference Monsieur de *Wic* inform'd me, that this State would be very glad if the Elector of *Brandenburgh* accommodated Matters with your Majesty, by the sending the Baron de *Bloemendaël*; I however am apt to think, from what he said to me before he went to *Amsterdam*, and since, that there can be no Reconciliation made between the said Elector and him, and that he would be glad the Alliance did not go so far as to maintin his Interests against the Pretensions of this State, to be paid some Mony the Elector is indebted to it.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United Provinces of the Low-Countries: February 23, 1663.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has express Orders from the King, his Master, to acquaint your Lordships, that on the good Offices your Lordships desir'd him to do them with his Majesty, the King has given the Lord Ambassador *Boreel* a Memorial, containing his final Intentions with reference to the Exchange of the Ratifications of the late Treaty of Alliance, which his Majesty offers to make immediately, and without delay, provided the said Ambassador delivers at the same time to his Majesty a Declaration, by which your Lordships consent that this Exchange shall be understood as not done, and come to pass, in case that within three Months, reckoning from that Day, these Provinces have not order'd that not only the Treaty of the Acquisition of *Dunkirk*, but the Town of *Dunkirk* it self shall be guaranteed in the same manner express'd in the Memorial put

into the Hands of Monsieur *Boreel*, your Lordships Ambassador.

The said Ambassador Extraordinary Under-written, thinks it also his Duty to tell your Lordships that his Majesty, not satisfy'd with having out of his proper Motion, and beforehand, remedy'd part of the Complaints made on some Points of the Alliance, has since so favourably answer'd all the Articles of Complaint, which your Lordships caus'd to be brought to the said Ambassador Extraordinary, by Monsieur the Counsellor Pensionary *de Wit*, as you will see by the Copy hereunto annex'd, that your Lordships have no manner of Reason to doubt of the Sincerity, with which his Majesty intends to execute the Treaty in all its Points.

But as his Majesty makes such notable Advances on his Side for the Exchange of the Ratifications, so he hopes your Lordships will on yours acknowledge the Integrity of his Intentions, and the desire he has to render the Interest, of his Crown and this State inseparable, and that yours will Correspond perfectly with it, by readily and without Repugnance guaranting a Place, which may one Day serve for a Pretext to disturb the Peace of all Christendom, if it be not compriz'd in the general Guaranty. At least, his Majesty does not doubt, but your Lordships will receive with Joy the Offer he makes you to ratifie immediately; provided your Lordships at the same time declare, you will Guarant the Place within the time mention'd in the Memorial. Upon which, the said Ambassador Extraordinary with Impatience expects a Resolution worthy your Lordships Prudence, to give the last Perfection to the Treaty of Alliance, that he may render the King his Master an Account of it by the first Post. Given at the *Hague*, February 23, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

An

An Answer to the Memorial given the Count D'Estrades, in the Name of the Lords the States of the United Provinces, on Occasion of the pretended Contraventions to the late Treaty made between the King and the said States.

To the First Article.

‘ HIS Majesty caus’d an Order of his Council to
 ‘ be issu’d a few Days since, that the Subjects of
 ‘ the said States may enjoy the Contents of the Separate
 ‘ Article of the said Treaty; so that for the future,
 ‘ the Duty of 50 Sols a Ton will be but once levy’d
 ‘ on the Ships sailing from the Ports of *France* at each
 ‘ Voyage.

To the Second.

‘ By the same Order, his Majesty Commands that
 ‘ the said Separate Article be executed for the reducing
 ‘ the 50 Sols to 25, on Ships loaden with Salt.

To the Third.

‘ His Majesty will give very Express Orders, that
 ‘ the Subjects of the said States under Pretence of
 ‘ mingling Whale Oil with Linseed and Rape, shall
 ‘ not be molested nor troubled in bringing those Oils
 ‘ into the Kingdom.

To the Fourth.

‘ His Majesty will more particularly examine the
 ‘ Lease of the Privileges granted the North Com-
 ‘ pany, to satisfy the said States on that Point: It suf-
 ‘ fices only to say, that the first Privilege which is
 ‘ mention’d by that Article was granted in 1657, and
 ‘ is not to cease till 1677.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
March 2, 1663.

11

THIS Difficulty, when examin'd narrowly, appearing to be but imaginary, I have Grounds to look upon it as the meer Effect of the Policy and Address of the *Sieur de Wit*, to make the thing seem more considerable than 'tis, when he has succeeded in it; for I am so far from thinking the States cannot Authorize the *Sieur Boreel* to give me a like Declaration, that I doubt not the said *Boreel*, by his Character only of the States Ambassador, might of his own Head give it me without any Order. And my Reason is this, If I now demand that *Boreel* Guarants *Dunkirk* for me, in the Name of the State; I believe neither he nor the Assembly of the States at the *Hague*, have Power to do it without a preceding Deliberation and express Consent of the Provinces. But the Proposal I make is quite different, I offer to exchange the Ratifications, on Condition that within three or four Months the Provinces shall declare *Dunkirk* is as much compriz'd in the Guaranty, as the other Towns I possess. And in the mean time, that I may not be complain'd of, nor accus'd, if the Provinces do not consent that I have broken my Word by departing from the Treaty, I require a Writing be given me, declaring the Exchange of the Ratifications not to be made, but on Condition of the said Guaranty. What cou'd the Provinces say against that, tho' their Minister had only done it of his own Head? Wou'd it not be to have the whole Matter referr'd back to the Provinces? Would the Minister, and much more the Assembly of the States, have either of them exceeded their Orders or their Power, by rendring the Provinces Mistresses of doing or not doing what they should think fit, when they alone shall be in a Condition, without my being able to oppose it, to render the Treaty valid or invalid; when

when I alone shall be bound, and they remain Free 'till their last Deliberation.

These Considerations are so evident and so palpable, it being true that I could not be oblig'd to Exchange the Ratifications without the plain and simple Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, a Minister would not only be to blame for taking hold of such an Opportunity to engage me without tying his Masters, but wou'd deserve Punishment for letting it slip: From whence you may infer, the States may with much more Reason give the said Minister such an Order. Upon all that has been said, I have cause to believe, that at the same time this Dispatch is deliver'd you, I shall receive one from you, with Information that this *Affair* is already adjusted to mutual Satisfaction, by the Expedient I propos'd; or at least, that you and the *Sieur de Wis* will have been so industrious, that 'twill now lye before the Assembly of the States, with all the Hopes of Success imaginable. And in either of these two Cases, you are to keep to the Instructions already given you, without making any manner of Alteration in my Proposal.

But if, contrary to my Expectation, and to Reason, the thing should pass otherwise, and the said Assembly should not think 'tis in their Power to Authorize *Boreel* to give me such a Declaration without the Consent of the Provinces; or the Resolution not being yet taken in the said Assembly, you have Reason to apprehend that when 'tis brought on, 'twill not pass by majority of Voices, to give the said *Boreel* such an Order, in these two Cases, I am willing to give the States still a new Mark of my Sincerity and Affection; and you may declare to them, that to accommodate my self as much as possible to their Forms and the Constitution of their State, I have resolv'd to proceed, without delay, to the Exchange of the Ratifications, even without the Declaration of their Ambassador, which I demanded; provided, nevertheless, that it be understood that they shall within three or four

four Months give me the Act of Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, as long as our Treaty shall last, to my entire Satisfaction; without which, as I shall declare to the said *Sieur Boreel*, I would not have made the said Exchange.

However, if the Affair should so proceed, you shall begin with telling the *Sieur de Wit* in private, before you let the Assembly know what I write you, that there were but two Circumstances, both which regarded him, and had been earnestly represented to me by you, that determin'd me to take this Resolution; one was, that he would do his utmost, and even take it upon himself, that the States shall guarant *Dunkirk* to me, in the best manner I can desire, provided I exchange'd the Ratifications. The other, that my Consideration in this Matter would be of great Service to him, in acquiring him still a greater Interest and Reputation in the Country, as my Resistance might have given his Enemies a Handle to do him a prejudice, every one knowing he was the principal Cause of the Treaty, which is not ratify'd. You may assure him, these were the two Motives which made me come to this Resolution, and overcome all the Difficulties I had form'd in my Mind, with respect to my Security. You know if they were imaginary or real, but I thought I could never be guilty of a piece of Imprudence in trusting to the Word of a Man of so much Honour as the *Sieur de Wit*, and one who has shewn so much Affection to me; I thought also 'twould be better to venture something, than lose so fair an Opportunity of obliging him by encreasing his Reputation, and stopping the Mouths of those that envy him.

You will, in my Mind, have a great deal of Trouble to let him know the worth of what I am about to do in his Favour, so as to engage him so much the more to espouse my Interests, and namely to destroy the Project of the *Spaniards* for a League between the Seventeen Provinces, pursuant to the Promise he has already made you.

I was very glad to understand they began, with you, not to be so apprehensive as they were, that the Freedom I had given *Dunkirk* would diminish their Trade; as for the Report that has been spread about the Cities, that I have forbidden the admitting any Person into *Dunkirk* that is not of the Catholick Religion, you know as well as I how that Matter stands, and that 'tis only the publick Exercise of any contrary Doctrines that is not permitted. Since you are now satisfy'd with the Conduct and Repentance of the Agents of the Bishop of *Munster*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, we will not here press to have 'em recall'd, tho' perhaps one or both of those Princes may already have sent Orders for it.

I yet know nothing of the Occasion of the Journey of the Baron de *Bloemendaël*, whom the Elector of *Brandenburgh* has sent to me; but you may assure the *Sieur de Wit* before-hand, that I shall have great Regard to what he has said to you, and whatever Proposals this Envoy has in charge to make me, I shall so carry my self as not to lose my old Friends to gain new Ones, who have neither the same Affection, nor the same Sincerity.

I have still one word to add touching the principal Affair, which is to tell you, if you are oblig'd to come to the last Compliance, which I have empower'd you to do by this Dispatch, you ought first to explain your self confidently to the *Sieur de Wit*, and observe to him 'tis on his single word, and out of regard to his Interest, that I have acquiesc'd, in every thing he desir'd of me on this Occasion, and afterwards take with him the proper Measures for the Management of this Affair with the States.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March 8, 1663.

NEver did Dispatch come more *a propos* than that your Majesty did me the honour to write me, of the second of this Month. Whatever care Monsieur *de Wit* took to bring Matters about, according to your Majesty's Intentions, he could not give me his word with certainty, that the Affair would not meet with Accidents to hinder its Success, as it well might happen in Debates, where so many are concern'd, and where there are Cabals labouring to prevent a close Alliance between *France* and this State; their greatest Efforts have been within these two Days, and that with such Success, as gave Monsieur *de Wit* and me Cause to doubt what Resolution the Assembly would take, tho' six of the principal Cities had voted for the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk* in the Form your Majesty desir'd.

Monsieur *de Wit* had brought them to consent to the said Guaranty, when on a sudden there grew a warm Debate occasion'd by the *Spanish* Faction, who demanded to see by vertue of what your Majesty was become lawful Possessor of the Town *Dunkirk*, and whether the King of *Spain* had made a Cession of the Place to the King of *England*, or to your Majesty, by the Treaty of Peace concluded between the two Crowns; and in case nothing off that Nature appear'd, they ought not in Conscience to pass the Act of Guaranty. This Opinion very much embarrass Monsieur *de Wit*, who found out a Pretext to break up the Assembly, and immediately acquainted me with what had happen'd. We have agreed to endeavour both of us to take off this ill Impression; I shall to that purpose visit the Deputies of the Cities, the Nobles, and the Deputies of the Assembly of the States-General forthwith, and declare to'em how much your Majesty will

will be surpriz'd at this new Difficulty, which justifies your Majesty's Reasons for requiring Securities before the Exchange of the Ratifications. That I hop'd they would think better of it, and that before I wrote your Majesty about it, I would wait to see what Resolution they would take the eighth of this Month; from which I should hope for a more favourable Success, pursuant to the good Inclinations they have several times shewn for your Majesty's Interests.

I found they were very much divided in their Opinions, and when I talk'd to Monsieur de Wit he confess'd to me the Majority were for referring the Decision of this Affair to another Assembly, which would entirely ruin it.

Your Majesty will be pleas'd to observe, this Proposal was made the fifth of this Month, and that I receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty sent me the seventh at Noon, which oblig'd me to go without delay to Monsieur de Wit to acquaint him with it, there being but one day before the Debate was to be, it being appointed for the Morrow, and I as well as the said Sieur de Wit had done all that could be done to secure the Guaranty in the form your Majesty propos'd it, without being able to assure our selves of the Event, according to your Majesty's Desires; wherefore having nothing to do further in it, I thought I could not oblige the Sieur de Wit more, and engage him more fairly to be as grateful as your Majesty's Goodness requires, than by reading to him that part of your Majesty's Letter which makes mention of him: No Body can be more glad at a thing than he was at that, nor discover more grateful Sentiments of the Obligation your Majesty had laid on him, by speaking of him in that manner than he did, desiring me to assure your Majesty, he would never forget your Majesty's Compliance out of regard to him, that he promis'd you, you should not repent it, that he would do more than give me his word in getting

ting the Assembly to conclude the Affair to your Majesty's Satisfaction, to which purpose 'twas necessary I should presently draw up a Memorial for the Lords the States, containing the Substance of what your Majesty had granted them, and send them; and that he would afterwards go to them, not letting them know I had communicated any thing to him, and so act by means of the help your Majesty had now given him, that he doubted not you would be entirely satisfy'd. I drew up the said Memorial in his Closet, which he approv'd of, and sent it away immediately to the President for the Week: 'Tis impossible to be more vigorous in an Affair, than the said *Sieur de Wit* has been in this; he went to the Assembly the seventh at four a Clock in the Afternoon, my Memorial was presently shewn him, on which he said they must not hesitate any longer in giving your Majesty Satisfaction, that every Delay would be an Affront after so many Marks of your Majesty's Goodness, especially that of causing the Articles of the Treaty to be executed before the Exchange of the Ratifications, and afterwards to make the said Exchanges before the Act for the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, as well as the other Towns compriz'd in the Treaty of *Paris*, was past; which was to fill up the Measure, and he was of Opinion they should come to a Resolution therein answerable to your Majesty's Desires. The Assembly sat 'till eight at Night, and those who seem'd most contrary to them chang'd their Mind, our Friends had the Advantage, so that 'twas resolv'd the Guaranty should be agreed to in the Form your Majesty desir'd.

And the Act of Resolution is drawing it, for the other Provinces to consent to it: *Monsieur de Wit* came himself to acquaint me with this Resolution in the Name of the Lords the States.

Your Majesty will now see *Monsieur de Wit's* Apprehension was not without Ground, and that 'twas almost impossible for the Affair to succeed so happily

as it has, if he had not press'd the Expedient taken by your Majesty; in which, I am particularly very much oblig'd to your Majesty, for giving me the Means to render you my humble Services; since without it, I confess I should not have been able to have secur'd the desir'd Success.

I must add, that *Richard* thought this Affair so effectually broken off, that he wrote to *Don Esteven de Gamarre*, to desire him to hasten his Journey, because the Conjecture was very favourable to bring the League between the seventeen Provinces to a Conclusion.

I can assure your Majesty, I shall now see him arrive without any Concern, and that he will find himself very much out in his Account, as to his Pretensions; *Friquet* has been told, that the Province of *Holland* is of Opinion that Satisfaction should be given the Order of *Maltha*, by your Majesty's Intercession. Your Majesty may be assur'd of it, that you could not have more powerfully engag'd *Monsieur de Wit* in all your Interests, than you have done by your compliance in the Affair of the Exchanges of the Ratifications out of regard to him, and that he is fully convinc'd of this Truth. He has also protested to me, he will never fail to demonstrate to your Majesty, in all things wherein your Service is depending, the true Acknowledgment he has of it.

The cunning Reports *Richard* spread in the Assembly, and in the Cities, of which I gave your Majesty an Account last Post, have reviv'd the Apprehensions of *Zealand*, and the Cities of *Amsterdam* and *Rotterdam*, for their Trade. But now that all Opinions are united and contented, those Apprehensions are vanish'd, and I did not forget making use of your Majesty's Reasons, in your Dispatches, to undeceive them, and with such Success, that I can now say, *Dunkirk* does no more disturb them.

The *Sieur de Wit* was very well pleas'd with what I told him, on the sending the *Sieur de Bloemendael* to your Majesty by the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and

your Majesty's assuring him, that he need not be afraid any Proposal he had to make on his Arrival, should make you change your old Friends for new.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 8, 1663.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, has express Orders from the King his Master, to acquaint your Lordships, that tho' his Majesty thought he had made all Advances necessary to shew the Sincerity of his Intentions, by the Offer he had caus'd to be made Monsieur Boreel, your Ambassador in Ordinary to him, to exchange the Ratifications of the Treaty of Alliance, provided your Lordships order a Declaration to be put into his Majesty's Hands, importing a Promise that your Lordships would Guarant the Town of *Dunkirk*, as long as the Treaty shall last, as much as all the rest of the Towns of his Kingdom; nevertheless, his Majesty is desirous to give your Lordships a new and full Token of his Sincerity and Affection, and has resolv'd, accommodating himself as much as is possible to the Forms of your Government, and the Constitution of this State, to go further, even to the Exchange of the Ratifications without delay, or the Declaration his Majesty desir'd of the Ambassador. And his said Majesty inclines the more readily thereunto; for that he knows your Lordships will consider he must, to do this, be entirely convinc'd, your Lordships will make no Scruple to Guarant the Town of *Dunkirk*, in the manner he may, and ought to desire, as soon as the

Provinces

Provinces of which this State is compos'd, can assemble; to come to a Resolution about it; as his Majesty will more fully give your Ambassador to understand when the Exchange is made. After all this, the said Ambassador Extraordinary thinks he may say, your Lordships cannot desire any thing more to be entirely assur'd of the Sincerity of the King his Master's Intentions, and the punctual Execution of the Treaty of the Alliance his Majesty has made with this State. Given at the *Hague*, March 8, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
March 15, 1663.

I Was very glad, by your Dispatch of the 8th Instant, to understand you had receiv'd mine of the 2d so *a propos* and timely, as to give you an Opportunity to break all the Cabals and Measures of those who imagin'd to have found, in my exacting the Guaranty, a favourable and almost infallible Means to hinder the Union of this Crown and the *United-Provinces*; 'twas also with great Pleasure I heard my last Resolution was so well taken with you, that the very same Day you declar'd it, the Act of Guaranty past in the Assembly of the Province of *Holland*, in the Terms I desir'd it. I confess the *Sieur de Wit* could not have made a better return for the Proofs I was willing to give him of my Esteem, and entire Dependance on his Word. The Sincerity and Affection he has shewn for my Interest on this Occasion (than which none can be of more Importance) are new Motives for me to regard and protect his, to carry my self with him in an entire Confidence; and always set a great value on his Opinion in all things. In the mean time,

as soon as I receiv'd your Dispatch, I order'd *Lionne* to demand in my Name, of the Ambassador *Boreel*, that the Ratifications be exchange'd without further Delay. This is what we are now upon, that the next Post may bring you the News of the Affair's being finish'd and consummated. You will nevertheless second the *Sieur de Wit*, and my other Friends Endeavours, to get the six Provinces to join with that of *Holland* in their last Resolution. I shall say nothing of the other Matters, with which you are given in Charge, only that I don't at present expect any good Success in them from the present Disposition of Peoples Minds with you. The *Chevalier de Terlon* is arriv'd, and has given me the Memorial you presented, for the Restitution of the Estates belonging to *Maltha*, which I think is very well drawn.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, February 10, 1663.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has Orders from the King his Master, to represent to your Lordships, that he has as much Impatience as your Lordships your selves, to see an end put to the Affair of the Exchange of the Ratifications; that his Majesty thinks the way to end it to the Satisfaction of both Parties, is to make a Treaty for the Guaranty of *Dunkirk* on one Part, and those of *England* and the Country of *Outremense* on the other, and at the same time to Exchange the Ratifications of both Treaties.

His Majesty's Intention being not to alter any thing that was agreed to by the Treaty, and only desires your Lordships to be as well satisfy'd with this

' this Proposition as he is himself, that there may re-
 ' main no Pretence to hinder the Conclusion of this
 ' Affair. His Majesty is very glad to hear your Lord-
 ' ships Care, in examining the Affair of the Restituti-
 ' on of the Estates belonging to *Malta*, so well an-
 ' swers the Promises made him by your Ambassador,
 ' before the Treaty of *Paris* was sign'd. He hopes,
 ' out of Affection to him, out of your Lordships E-
 ' quity, and the Regard you will have for his Recom-
 ' mendation of a thing which is in its self most Just,
 ' you will give him speedy Satisfaction in this Affair,
 ' for which his Majesty is as much concern'd, as if it
 ' was his own.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
 March 15, 1663.

I Did my self the honour to write your Majesty, the
 eighth of this Month, that the Province of *Hol-*
land had declar'd the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, in the
 Form you desir'd it. The next Day the Affair was
 resum'd, and they order'd that the Deputies for this
 Province, in the Assembly of the States-General, should
 Communicate their Sentiments to that Assembly, and
 endeavour to dispose also the other Provinces to it, that
 an A& in due Form might be forthwith sent to the
 Ambassador *Boreel*. Monsieur *de Wit* executed his Ma-
 ster's Orders, and said in the Assembly of States-Ge-
 neral, that the States of *Holland* had receiv'd the Gua-
 ranty of *Dunkirk*, and desir'd the rest of the Provinces
 to agree to it; he had scarce done speaking, when
 some who are not well affected to *France*, said they
 wonder'd to find such an Alteration in the States of
Holland, since nothing had been said of that Guaranty
 before, but only for the Treaty of *Dunkirk*; and 'twas

on that only all the Provinces had built their Deliberations, because they avoided the Guaranty of a Place to the Prejudice of the King of *Spain's* Pretentions. Monsieur *de Wit* reply'd, that in effect the former Resolution of the States of *Holland* spoke only of the Guaranty of the Treaty of *Dunkirk*, but the Terms were such as shew'd their Intention was to Guarant the Place; in as much as it says expressly, they Guarant the Treaty of *Dunkirk* after the same manner as if it had been made before the Conclusion of the Treaty of Alliance, and had been compriz'd in the general Guaranty, which by Vertue of the third Article of the Treaty of Alliance, comprehends not only the Treaties, but also the Possession of Lands, Towns and Places; that 'twas impossible to give any other Explication to the Resolution of the States of *Holland*, nor also to that of the States of *Zealand*, of the fourteenth of the last Month. But tho' a Force was put on those express Words, and one endeavour'd to explain them contrary to their Intention; it could not be done without giving every Body an Impression quite contrary to what they ought to have, of the Sincerity of the Proceedings of this State, particularly with respect to the Execution of the Treaty made with *France*; that 'tis true Mention has been made in that Assembly of the Interest the King of *Spain* may have in it; but he did not believe 'twas by his Order, the Province of *Holland* not having been made acquainted with it; that what he had to represent from his Masters was, that the Town of *Dunkirk* was not less conquer'd by the Arms of *France* than by those of *England*, tho' your Majesty had thought it convenient for your Service, and the quiet of your Kingdom, to yield up your Right to *England*; that he would not speak of the Advantage it would be to this Republick to see the Town of *Dunkirk* in your Majesty's Hands, rather than in those of any other Potentate, but he thought himself oblig'd to say it concern'd this State to Guarant

rant the Place, not only because she had Occasion of your Majesty's Guaranty for the Treaty made with *England*, and the Division of the Country of *Ontrémense*; but also, because she could not be certain but that, under Colour of *Dunkirk*, the Peace of Christendom might be disturb'd, and a War be reviv'd, which for several Reasons could not be indifferent to her. These Considerations so weigh'd with Monsieur *de Ghent*, who is the first Deputy of the first Province, that he said he could not see why they should make any scruple of Guarantying the Town of *Dunkirk* now, as well as the Treaty. Two other Deputies of the same Province, *viz.* Messieurs *Huygens* and *Ommeren* were of another Opinion; but notwithstanding all that, the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*, after the same manner as your Majesty desir'd, would have been agreed to, had not Monsieur *Reinswouw*, first Deputy for the Province of *Utrecht*, and an intimate Friend of Don *Esteven de Gamaarre*, said he could not consent to it without an expresse Order of his Province; for without that all the other Provinces were going to declare the Guaranty, and the Act had been this Week sent to Monsieur *Boreel*; but, as I have said, these three Gentlemen hinder'd it, so that by the Constitution of the State, we must wait for the Resolution of the particular Provinces, which will doubtless be procur'd by the end of this Month; all the Cities of *Holland* and *Zealand* having declar'd for the said Guaranty, there's no question but the other Provinces will do the same. I have sent a Gentleman to *Friseland*, to Prince *Williams of Nassau*, to desire him to hasten the Provinces of *Friseland* and *Groningen* coming to a Resolution conformable to your Majesty's Intentions, of which I have sent him a Memorial. I believe he will do, taking himself to be highly oblig'd by the favour your Majesty has done him, as your Majesty will perceive by the Letter he has written you.

Nothing could be better manag'd, nor with more address, than Monsieur *de Wit* has shewn in this Matter;

he was very desirous it should pass, to shew your Majesty he had made a good Use of the Opportunity your Majesty had put into his Hands to serve you: And 'tis not his Fault the Business is not already finish'd, he having done all that lay in his Power; he has put things in so fair a way, that the Resolution of the Provinces is infallible, and will be got in twenty Days at least.

At a Visit I yesterday paid Madam the Princess of Orange, she told me she had receiv'd Letters from the Baron *de Bloemendael*, advising her of his Arrival at Paris; and that he was order'd by his Master to speak to your Majesty about the Restitution of Orange; but not having found Monsieur *Hollis* appointed by England for the Ambassie of France, he had thought it proper to put off that Demand 'till his Arrival, to the End that their joint Offices may have the better Effect: She added she was not very well pleas'd with Monsieur the Elector, for not ordering him to take the *Hague* in his Way, and that she did not know what subject he went upon. I believe she told Truth, for I know her so well, that I perceiv'd she was provok'd, when I said to her smiling, she did not speak sincerely, and that there was no likelihood Monsieur the Elector would conceal any thing from her, but I pray'd her to believe I had no Curiosity to know her Secret.

I am to advise your Majesty, that the Elector is Monsieur *de Wit*'s declar'd Enemy, and the Latter was the Occasion of the States demanding Payment of a considerable Sum the Elector owes them, he knowing well 'tis impossible for that Prince to satisfy it; I guess the *Sieur de Wit* took hold of this Opportunity to be reveng'd on the Elector for some certain Libels he has got printed and distributed thro' *Holland*, which reflect on the *Sieur de Wit*; and I am apprehensive, as warm as he appears at present for your Majesty's Interests, he'll Cool, if your Majesty does not let him a little into the Secret of what you intend to treat with the Elector about. I shall wait for your Majesty's Orders,

ders, and obey what you shall command me thereon.

In the last Dispatch I hinted a Word to your Majesty, relating to the Memorial I presented to the States to accompany that the Dean of *Munster* was to give; when his Affair came to be debated there were at first great Contests on the Deputies of *Guelderland*, pretending the Cognizance of the Affair of *Borckelo* should come before the Court of Justice of their Province; but in as much as they are Parties in this Cause, 'twas not thought just that the Decision of it should be left to them; this gave rise to a second Opinion, which was that the States of *Guelderland* and Count *Stirum* should be summon'd to answer the Complaints of the Bishop; and this Opinion had been follow'd, if the States Deputies had not urg'd, that the Memorial should be communicated by them to their Province, which is not usual to be refus'd; but the President, I know not for what Reason, forgot when he concluded to add that in the mean time the Count *de Stirum* should answer, so that all could be done was to procure a Conference with the Committee; but 'tis not likely any thing will come of it before the Holy-days, because Monsieur *de Wit*, who is of all Committees, will be taken up with the States of *Holland's* Business 'till *Tuesday* next, and after that some Days must be allow'd for Devotion.

I shall endeavour to find out what the Inclination of this State is as to the Affair of *Borckelo*, to govern my self therein with the more advantage for your Majesty's Service, as much as I can, by having the Conferences kept at my House, and vigorously Interposing your Majesty's Authority, if I find the thing is like to succeed; but if the Bishop is not so well grounded in his Pretensions as he would have it believ'd, or we meet with Difficulties that cannot be got over, I shall proceed with more Moderation, and not expose my self. If the Province of *Guelderland* have no Interest in it, 'twill not be difficult to accommodate the Difference between the Bishop and the Count, because the
Former

Former is willing to give the latter Money, and besides that some Military Employ and Pensions out of Benefices to his two Sons; but the Right to the Territory will cause all the Difficulty.

The Duke of *Newburgh's* having publish'd an Ordinance to expel all Persons of the pretended Reform'd Religion out of *Dusseldorp*, who had been settled there a certain Time, has oblig'd the Elector of *Brandenburgh* to use Reprisals on the Catholicks of the Dutchy of *Cleves*, and he has begun with the Convent of Capuchins, whom he has driven out of the City of *Cleves*, and 'tis thought he will do the same by that of the Cordeliers, to the great Grief of those poor People.

I told the Baron *de Lerode*, 'twas proper to moderate the Affair of the Ordonnance a little, because Reprisals were a great Damage to the Catholick Religion, and the Protestant Ministers had such Interest in the States, they would prevail with them to do the same in the County of *Ravestein*. The Baron *de Lerode's* Indisposition has hinder'd his being able to act in his Master's principal Affair; however he has presented a Memorial to the Lords the States, in which he demands, a little too bluntly, Satisfaction for the Disorders committed by the States Troops in the Country of *Cleves*; and 'twere to be wish'd he had shewn me that Memorial before he presented it, because he talks too big, relying on your Majesty's Authority, which will not facilitate an Accommodation in a popular Government, where things are to be manag'd more by Address and Mildness, than by Threats, to gain the desir'd Ends. I have already been labouring with my Friends to have this Matter made up, and I hope, in the first Conferences I shall have with the Committee, we shall go upon the same Conditions of Accommodation of which we have already discours'd, as I have inform'd your Majesty in my Dispatches. I dare add, with respect to the Catholicks of *Cleves*, that if your Majesty in treating with the Baron *de Bloemendael*, the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Envoy, should find means to oblige the said

said Elector to re-establish the Capuchins in the City of *Cleves*, it would make a great Noise among all the Catholicks of those Quarters, and even of this Country, and would very much confirm 'all the Churchmen of that Dutchy, which is pretty larg', against the fears they are in to be treated as ill as the Capuchins have been.

Monfieur the Elector of *Cologn's* Agent has presented a Memorial to the States, concerning his Master's Interests without speaking to me of it; if he comes to me, I shall however continue to manage things as I have already done, to procure him Satisfaction pursuant to your Majesty's Orders.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 6, 1663.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, being inform'd that Monsieur the Dean of *Munster* presents this Day a Memorial to your Lordships, touching the Difference the Bishop his Master has with the Count *de Stirum* for the Territory of *Borckelo*, has thought it necessary to accompany it with these Lines, to remember your Lordships of the Affection with which the King my Master has recommended this Affair to Messieurs the Ambassadors Extraordinary of this State, not doubting but as well out of regard to the concern his Majesty takes in the Interests of a Prince his Allie and your Neighbour, as out of Love to Justice, your Lordships will reflect on what is due to both the one and the other, and in that follow the Inclination which

▪ which leads you to Equity. Given at the *Hague*,
March 6, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
March 23, 1663.

I Have receiv'd your Dispatch of the 15th Instant, and was very well pleas'd to hear with what Vigour and Force the *Sieur de Wit* spoke in the Assembly of the States for the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, and that it had been carry'd immediately, had it not been for two or three Members of the *Spanish* Faction, who not concurring, the States were forc'd to refer this Debate to the Provinces, conformable to the Constitutions of their Republick, which require that such Resolutions be taken unanimously, and that the other Provinces should be of the same mind with *Holland* and *Zealand*, which are the chief Provinces, and always Influence the rest, and both have declar'd themselves already thereon, as much to my Satisfaction as I could desire. I doubt not the rest will infallibly follow their Example. In the meantime, to encrease the *Sieur de Wit*'s Authority more and more, and also to demonstrate with what Sincerity I always proceeded in this Affair, I here hasten as much as I can the Exchange of the Ratifications, that it may be done before the said Provinces have time to explain themselves on the said Guaranty; of which you may assure the said *Sieur de Wit*, and that I take this new Token of his Affection as kindly, as if the thing had immediately succeeded according to his Design and Desire.

I highly approve the Reflection you made, that it may be very much for my Service to communicate to the *Sieur de Wit* the Secret of the Affairs treated of here with the *Baron de Bloemendael*, the Elector of *Brandenburg's* Envoy, this Elector being the *Sieur de Wit's* declar'd Enemy; lest keeping this Negotiation a Mystery to the latter, the warmth he now shews for my Interest may cool. You may therefore tell the the said *Sieur de Wit*, (and therein enlarge on my Sincerity and Affection) that I have not hitherto seen any thing in the Baron's Proposals, but a desire his Master shews, out of Respect to me, to enter into the Alliance of the *Rhine*; to which 'till now he discover'd no Disposition. This being a thing which cannot be refus'd him, if he had demanded it of the other Confederates, tho' I shou'd even oppose it, since the said Treaty contains in exprefs Terms, a Door should be left open for all the Princes of the *Rhine*, and the Empire, who would enter into it, there was, as you perceive, no room for me to hesitate on the Answer I should make him; and the rather, because if the Affair goes on, 'twill make a great deal of noise in the World, and be a great Mortification to the House of *Austria*, who will by that Means find this Elector to be disengag'd from its Interests. All that troubles me, is my Regard to the Duke of *Newburgh*, and the said *Sieur de Wit*: But I have already caus'd the *Baron de Bloemendael* to be told plainly, that my first and old Friends shall always, whatever happens, have the first Place in my Affection, and that I would not in that Point deceive his Master, for he must build his Measures and Resolutions on that Foundation. That 'twas true, if he enter'd into a Friendship with me, I would with Pleasure make use of all my Interest with both the one and other, to reconcile, if possible, their Difference, and make them good Friends, to their mutual Satisfaction; in which, perhaps, each of them would find his Account and Advantage.

I believe by what you told me of the Dowager of *Orange*, that she talk'd sincerely to you, when she protested to you, she was not acquainted with the Subject of *Bloemendael's* Journey, and I doubt not she resent'd your distrust of her, as she seem'd to do; you may in little time have more Confidence in her.

I can't think the Coldness which is observ'd in Chancellor *Hyde* in those Matters; wherein he formerly appear'd so warm, proceeds from the Principle you suspect, he being very much against it. Besides, 'tis not to be presum'd, that foreseeing very well the greatest part of the *English* would cry out aloud against the Sale of *Dunkirk*, he would give his Enemies an opportunity to declaim with greater appearance of Reason, that he gave his Master that Counsel for his private Interest.

I have Reason to be very much displeas'd with the Conduct of the *Sieur de Mombas*, but if any Consideration can make me forget it, 'twill doubtless be that of the *Sieur de Groot*, his Brother-in-law, whose Person I esteem, and who, as you write me, discovers so much Zeal for my Interests.

I have seen the two Memorials you have presented to the States, relating to the Affair of *Borckelo*, and that of *Maltha*. Tho' the *Baron de Lerode*, was in the wrong, not to communicate that he gave the States to you; 'twill be convenient to back it by another of yours, to soften the Terms the *Baron de Lerode* has us'd, which being too harsh, and too lofty, may irritate, and not have the Effect desir'd. This Difference has been taken notice of here by the Agent of the said *Newburgh*, who has been answer'd as he ought, by laying the Fault on the said Baron: But for the future, the Service and Advantage of the Master must be minded, without troubling ones self about what the Minister does.

I have order'd *Lionne* to speak to the Baron, *de Bloemendael*, in favour of the Catholics of *Cleves*, and namely, to have the *Capuchins* re-establish'd in the City.

I close my Dispatch with an Order, in the Execution of which, with great Application, you'll very much please me. Take care to enquire (not letting it appear that I wrote to you, but do it as out of your own Curiosity) who are most famous and eminently Excellent in all kinds of Professions and Sciences throughout all the *United-Provinces* of the *Low-Countries*, and also all those under the Domination of *Spain*, and send me an exact List containing the Circumstances of their Birth, their Riches or Poverty, what Work they apply themselves to, and their Qualities. What I propose to my self by it, is to be inform'd of what is most masterly and excellent in each Country, in any Profession whatsoever, to do afterwards as I shall think fit for my Glory and Service; but this Inquiry should be made with great Circumspection and Exactness, without letting the Persons themselves, or any one else perceive my Design, or your being employ'd in it.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 19, 1663.

‘THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordi-
 ‘ nary of *France*, considering the States of *Hol-*
 ‘ land and *West-Friseland* are about separating on ac-
 ‘ count of the approaching Holidays, and that if your
 ‘ Lordships do not exhort them seriously to give their
 ‘ Opinions within the few Days that remain for them
 ‘ to deliberate in, concerning the Restitution of the E-
 ‘ states belonging to the Order of *Maltha*, not only the
 ‘ Committee deputed for that Purpose by your Lord-
 ‘ ships, cannot make their Report in several Months;
 ‘ but all *Europe* will have ground to believe that those
 ‘ who possess the Estates of the Order continue to
 ‘ make

' make use of the same Means which they have so
 ' many Years us'd, to evade the effect of the Instances
 ' the King, his Master, has made for it by his Mini-
 ' sters; and that he cannot excuse himself, if he did
 ' not apply still to your Lordships, and seriously
 ' represent to you he cou'd not Answer it to his
 ' Majesty, who has given him this Matter in Charge
 ' to prosecute earnestly, if he did not let your
 ' Lordships know that, unless you oblige the par-
 ' ticular Provinces, as you may, and ought, by Vertue
 ' of their Union, to restore the Estates of the Order,
 ' or to justify their pretended Right without delay,
 ' his Majesty will have cause to think (which nevertheless
 ' he would not do) that 'tis not your Design to have
 ' Justice done, that you will have no regard to his
 ' powerful and just Recommendation, and not matter
 ' what all Christendom may say of so Extraordinary
 ' a Proceeding, nor the Inconveniences the just Re-
 ' sentment of the Order may produce.

' The same Ambassador Extraordinary has also recei-
 ' ved expresse Orders, by the last Courier from his Ma-
 ' ster, to represent to your Lordships, that his Predeces-
 ' sors in his Employment, have from time to time ac-
 ' quainted this Government, that the Licence the
 ' Booksellers of this Country take to Print all sorts of
 ' Libels, to the great Prejudice of the *Reputation of*
 ' *his Crown and his Interests*, was intolerable; and upon
 ' that, your Lordships have on your Part often re-
 ' new'd the Ordinances publish'd against famous Li-
 ' bels, those that make, and those that disperse them.
 ' But for as much as this Remedy is not found effe-
 ' ctual enough to restrain this Licence, and since the
 ' last Complaints were made on this Subject, not only
 ' Books have been printed in these Provinces, wherein
 ' the Honour of several Persons of very eminent Qua-
 ' lity now living are touch'd, but also Information is
 ' given that there is printed, or about being printed, a
 ' Libel intituled, *The Last Will and Testament of the*
 ' *late Cardinal Mazarine*: With Remarks under a
 ' feign'd

' feign'd Name, for a Man very well known. The
 ' said Ambassador Extraordinary very earnestly re-
 ' quires your Lordships, in the Name of the King
 ' his Master, to give Order forthwith that the Book-
 ' sellers who have printed and publish'd these Libels,
 ' be punish'd according to the severity of those Ordi-
 ' nances, and that they be expressly forbidden to Sell
 ' or Print them for the future, particularly *The Pre-*
 ' *tended Last Will and Testament of the late Cardinal*
 ' *Richlieu*, on Pain of forfeiting the Books and Pres-
 ' ses, and other exemplary Punishment; because, un-
 ' less this Licence be suppress'd, his Majesty will be
 ' oblig'd to forbid throughout his Kingdom the Sale
 ' of Books printed in this Country; which cannot be
 ' done without injuring those who are not concern'd
 ' in the Publication of these Libels, and without some
 ' Interruption of the Commerce and good Correspon-
 ' dence which are so well settled between the two
 ' Nations. Given at the *Hague*, *March 19, 1663.*

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March 22, 1663.

I Have receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty did me
 the Honour to write me the 15th of this Month,
 and was very glad to observe your Majesty was sa-
 tisfy'd with the Resolution of the Province of *Holland*,
 as to the Guaranty of *Dunkirk*; I hope you will be as
 well pleas'd with the Sequel of it, every thing being
 dispos'd for it to succeed. I have seen Monsieur *de*
Wit, and your Majesty's Letter is so much in his Fa-
 vour, I thought I cou'd not do better than read it to
 him entire. I can assure your Majesty, he pays all
 the Gratitude due to the Honour your Majesty does
 him.

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him, and passionately applies himself to make all the Affairs your Majesty espouses succeed. For that purpose it was, he got the Province of *Holland* not to separate, but to continue their Session fifteen Days after the Holidays. He had at the same time procur'd a Deputation to each of the Provinces, to hasten their coming to a Resolution as to the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, conformable to that of the Province of *Holland*, and the Deputies went down this Morning. They being our Friends, there's ground to hope they'll soon return.

I have all the Reason in the World to be pleas'd with his Carriage towards me; he hides nothing from me, either of the Affairs of this State or Foreign Affairs. He ask'd my Advice on a Letter the King of *England* has written to the States, by a Gentleman sent on purpose, recommending the Tuition of the Prince, his Nephew, to them, and praying them to accept of it, and to stand him instead of a Father; that he was very much embarrass'd, because on one hand he was convinc'd 'twould be safe and advantageous for the States to take on them the Tuition of this Prince, and the Reasons I had urg'd in our Discourse on this Subject were very strong; but on the other, he found all the Cities so averse to this Tuition, and even to do any thing for the Prince, on account of the great Authority of his Predecessors; to which he might soon arrive, if he was assisted; the People having a great Kindness for his Person and Name, that he's oblig'd to join in with the Sentiments of his Brethren, and to tell me they would refuse the King of *England* what he demanded of them. I did all I could to moderate this Resolution, urging to him the same things I had said before, and shewing him he wou'd be much more Master of this Prince, he being a Man of Honour, after he had bred him up, and taken him out of the Misery into which he must infallibly fall, than if he abandon'd him, and left him with Sentiments of Revenge for the wrong done him, when he shall be
of

of Age to resent it. I wish I could have serv'd the poor Prince, knowing your Majesty wou'd not take it ill, and that it would have been an Obligation I had pay'd the late Prince *Henry*, his Grand-father, who had so great a Kindness for me, that for twelve Years together, and even to his Death, he hid none of his greatest Secrets from me : But I find 'tis at this time a House entirely destroy'd, and there are no other Measures to be thought of, but what must be taken with the States, that is with Monsieur *de Wit*, who continuing to carry himself perfectly well towards me, told me plainly, the *Spanish* Ambassador was in a great Passion upon your Majesty's seizing, as he said, the Authority of twelve Villages belonging to the King his Master, to add them to the Government of *Dunkirk*; that the Marquis of *Carasena* had complain'd of it by an Envoy, and your Majesty reply'd, you wou'd keep 'em, they lying commodious for you; that after such Answers, 'twould be impossible to be good Friends long, and that the League between the seventeen Provinces should be gone on with to defend them against so rude a Neighbour. The said *Sieur de Wit* answer'd, this was not a time for such a Proposition, that all this State was very much oblig'd to your Majesty, and particularly the Province of *Holland*; that they had no Jealousie of your Power, on the contrary, they would contribute what they could to encrease it, observing nothing but what was great and generous in all your Majesty's Actions; that for the twelve Villages of which he complain'd, he had spoken to me about 'em some Days ago; but that the Matter of Fact is far from being as he said, since there were but four taken in within the compass of the Circumvallation the King of *England* always enjoy'd, and he sold *Dunkirk*, and the Territory he possess, by the Treaty he made; and further, he must tell him, that in all the Places the Lords the States have taken, as *Boisleduc*, *Maestricht*, *Hulst*, and others, all the Villages within the Compass of the Circumvallation are added to the

Place; notwithstanding they depended on other Lordships. Don *Esteven de Gamarre* left him without saying a Word more, and 'twas the same Day the *Sieur de Wicquefort* went to dine with him, and found him in that ill Humour, of which I shall say nothing, to avoid Repetitions, he having given *Monsieur de Lionne* an account of it in the Letter he wrote to him. All I said to him was, that Don *Esteven de Gamarre* sent a Gentleman to me the Night he came, and the next Day I did the same by him, to know how he did, and thank him for the Compliment he had made me: He persists in it, that *Monsieur de Thou* made him the first Visit, and continues talking as he did to the *Sieur de Wicquefort*. I say he owes me the first Visit, not having had his Audience of Leave of the States, nor broken up his Household. He's so enrag'd to find his Affairs here in so ill a Posture, that he knows not what to do or say, and commits a hundred Extravagances which I see with Joy, and without being much concern'd for him.

Before *Monsieur de Wit* and I parted, I told him 'twas proper to let Don *Estevan de Gamarre* know his Conduct was ill, and that he had not behav'd himself well towards the Lords the States for his Master's Interests: That a fair Occasion offer'd, by the Petition *Madam* the Princess of *Orange* had presented to the States, for the Payment of the Sums due from the King of *Spain*, to Monseigneur the Prince of *Orange*; that if a vigorous Resolution was taken thereon, it would entirely ruin the Ambassador's Reputation, who having also declar'd himself his Enemy, since the last Visit he made, there could be no sure Reconciliation between them. The said *Sieur de Wit*, and I, consulted what was to be done. In fine, he thought the States-General might take a Resolution during the Assembly of *Holland*, that for as much as the Prelates, who by the Treaty of *Munster* are oblig'd for this Debt, have not answer'd the Letter the States wrote them in *December* last, 'twas resolv'd that the Archbishop

bishop of *Mechlin* should be written to, as well for himself as the other Prelates, that if within three Months they did not give order that the King of *Spain* pays this Debt, which is very considerable, they would proceed by seizing the Estates of the said Prelates within the Sovereignty of this State. 'Tis to be observ'd, that the greatest part of the said Estates are in the Sovereignty of the said States. They have also given Advice of it to the Marquis de *Caracena*, and Don *Esteven de Gamarre*, who were both chagrin'd upon it. This Resolution will let all *Flanders* know the *Spaniards* impos'd on them a *Chimera*, in making them believe the Lords the States would enter into a League with their Provinces; they will now see thro' their Artifices, and will be further convinc'd of them, if the Money is not paid in three Months. Eleven Cities of *Holland* having told me, they will by force of Arms seize the Estates of the Prelates which are bound for this Debt, and Monsieur de *Wit* has confirm'd it to me.

As for the other Affairs your Majesty has given me in Charge, I send your Majesty the Answer the States made me to the Elector of *Cologne's* Pretensions; there are three Points agreed to, the other two will be adjusted.

The Deputies of *Guelderland*, in the Assembly of the States-General, having demanded time to communicate to the States of their Province the Bishop of *Munster's* Memorial, touching the Affair of *Borckelo*; the Dean has been advis'd to present a second Memorial, to demand that the States of *Guelderland* be exhorted to try this Affair in the present Assembly, which was granted him. I recommended this Affair to them, in the Letter I wrote them on that of *Maltha*. But as I foresaw that neither the Exhortations of the Lords the States, nor my Instances, would oblige these Gentlemen to act against their own Interests, a Thought came into my Head, which I communicated to the Dean, especially because 'twill be very

hard to get the other Provinces to oblige that of *Guelderland* to do Justice: I thought therefore, whether it might not be advisable to make up the Matter with *Guelderland*, for their Right to the Territory of *Borkelo*, because by this Means the Pretensions of the Count *de Stirum* would be entirely destroy'd. But this being a very difficult Matter, and abundance of Steps to be taken to effect it, the Event is not to be depended on.

Further, the *Sieur Friquet* says, that he will not only not appear in this Affair, if the Baron *de Lorode* does not visit him, but also will not meddle with it, unless the Baron assures him in writing, that he will take on himself the Displeasure the Emperor may have, if the Affair should end, as 'tis expected, in a Denial; being very certain these Gentlemen will not suffer *Leuth* to be declar'd part of the Empire, to ground upon that the Execution of the Sentence the Baron *de Virmont* has obtain'd at *Brussels*, and *Spire*, as also the Satisfaction the Duke of *Newburgh* demands; and in effect, there's no manner of likelihood that any thing will be done in this Matter, if they do not begin by an Accommodation of the main Affair between the principal Parties. To which the States will always be ready, and forward the Execution of what shall be adjudg'd by Judges or Arbitrators agreed upon by the Parties.

The Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Deputies had Yesterday a Conference with the States, on the Difference he has with the Duke of *Newburgh*, touching the Declaration the Duke has publish'd against the Protestants, who have within some few Years settled in his Country. The Duke has caus'd it to be said here, that he did it not against the Protestants only, but all Strangers without Distinction, who contrary to the ancient Ordinances are settled in the Cities. But the *Brandenburgh* Ministers maintain the Duke's Officers had express Orders to expel none but Protestants; and indeed the Declaration publish'd makes mention of
none

none but them, and is derogatory to the Ordinance of 1555, as well by the Peace of *Passau* made in 1559, as by the Treaties made for fifty Years past, between the Electors of *Brandenburgh* and the Dukes of *Newburgh*. Besides, that this Ordinance mentions only Vagabonds, and those who did not learn their Trade in the City, and yet settle and set up there, to the Prejudice of the ancient Citizens. 'Tis very likely the Duke will be oblig'd to give more Satisfaction on this Subject, and that a Treaty of Alliance will be renew'd between the Elector and this State, since of all the Provinces there's only *Holland* that opposes it, and requires the difference with him about a certain Debt which these Gentlemen make amount to 1200000 Crowns, and the Elector pretends there's nothing due, be first adjusted. I know *Monsieur de Wit* is impatient to hear what the *Baron de Bloemendael* is negotiating with your Majesty; I most humbly entreat your Majesty to give me Instructions, as to what I am to say to him thereon.

From the King to the Count D'Estades :
 March 30, 1663.

I Have receiv'd your Dispatch of the 22d Instant, and was very glad to hear in what a good Condition all my Affairs with you are, the Disposition of the States to consider the Requests I make them for my Friends, the Trouble the *Spanish* Ambassador is in to find what little Hopes there are of his Negotiation for a League between the seventeen Provinces, and the *Sieur de Wit's* Confidence in you as to Affairs abroad and at home, on the greatest Part of which, of even those on which his Fortune most depends, he consults with you; all these good Effects proceeding from a good Cause, the Resolution I took here to declare I was

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ready

ready to proceed immediately to the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty of *Paris*, without staying for the Resolutions of all the Provinces on the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*. I press as much as I can to have the Exchange made without delay, and especially before the said Provinces can debate of the said Guaranty, that I may more and more testifie to the States the Sincerity with which I have always acted in this Affair; I thought I might have been able to have given you this News this-Post, but there are so many several Treaties to Copy, and they are for the most part so ample, that this work cannot be done this Week, and we shall be oblig'd to employ some Days more; but you may still assure every one, with you, my Intention is still the same, and that I am more uneasy that the thing cannot be done sooner, than the States can be to have it consummated.

All that *Gamarre* told the *Sieur de Wit*, on the Dependancies on *Dunkirk* is a plain Trick and a Falsity; you know there are but four Villages, instead of twelve the said *Gamarre* spoke of; and those I make use of in my Affairs, see every Day the Justice of my Intentions too well to think me capable of saying to the *Marquis de Caracena's* Envoy, I would have these Villages, because they lay Commodious for me; such a Supposition does not deserve an Answer. The said *Gamarre's* Pretention on his Arrival at the *Hague*, that you should make him the first Visit, is not less ridiculous than his other Discourse, and I cannot think (if he writes to *Spain* as he says) but he'll receive a good Reprimand for the Imprudence he has committed in bringing his Matter into a sort of Engagement he cannot maintain, by reason his absence from the Place of his Residence, how long soever and in whatever Place it has been, is not to be look'd upon but as a Journey three Leagues from the *Hague*, during which he fell ill for six Months, since when he went to *Brussels*; he took no Audience of leave, nor broke up his Household, nor made any Entry at his Return, nor acts with the
States

States by Virtue of any new Credentials. I think after to morrow to write to the Archbishop of *Ambrun*, in the mean time I order you to stand upon your Pretention to the first Visit, and not to comply on any Account whatsoever, or to submit this little Difference to any Arbitration or Medium.

It will be very proper that you under-hand foment, as much as you can, the Resolution that has been taken to sieze the Estates bound for the Payment of the Sums the *Spaniards* owe the Prince of *Orange*.

The favourable Answer the States have on my account, given to the greatest Part of the Points contain'd in the Memorial presented by the Elector of *Cologne's* Agent, gives me reason to hope the rest will be also adjusted to the Elector's Satisfaction, to procure which you should continue to do your Endeavours; as also for the Advantage of the Bishop of *Munster*, and more especially in the Affair of *Lenth* in favour of the Duke of *Newburgh*, whose Subjects may occasion greater Disorders.

I have given Directions that the Cardinal of *Hesse's* Agent be shewn the Memorial you have presented the States for the Restitution of the Estates belonging to *Maltha*; this Agent seems very well satisfy'd with the Force and Vigor of your Expressions, and has promis'd to give his Master a faithful Account of it, having before-hand return'd me many things in his Name,

The Baron *de Bloemendael's* Negotiation is in no greater forwardness than when I wrote you last, and will not be a long while; for that the said Baron has no Instruction of his Master's Intentions with respect to several Difficulties propos'd to him, before we enter farther into the Matter, which you may boldly tell the said *Sieur de Wit*.

The Resolution the States have taken, upon your Complaints touching the intolerable Abuse of printing Libels, has pleas'd me extreamly; it remains that you watch very narrowly, that it be more exactly observ'd than the like Prohibitions have hitherto been.

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The Express the *Venetian* Ambassador and the *Spanish* Secretary expected from *Rome*, arriv'd here the 24th Instant, and has brought that Court's Consent and Approbation to every thing they promis'd me in writing; and I shall not repeat it, because I have already inform'd you his Holiness had again appointed the *Sieur Rasponi*, his Plenipotentiary, to revive the Negotiation for an Accommodation with the Duke of *Crequi*, whom I shall order to set out in five or six Days, that he may arrive at *Lyon* at the same time his Holiness's Plenipotentiary arrives.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March 29, 1663.

I Have also communicated the Baron *de Bloemendael's* Proposition to the said *Sieur de Wit*, as a Secret; he appears to be very much oblig'd to your Majesty for the Trust you repose in him, and has spoken so handsomely to me upon it, that nothing could be better said: He approves of your Majesty's recieving that Prince into the League of the *Rhine*, and takes the Declaration you have made, that whatever Treaty is concluded, you will not forget your old Friends and Allies for new, as a great Obligation; he added, that if the Elector is sincere with your Majesty, he will no more think of resenting his using him ill, and that Prince shall see he forgets it by his Facilitating his Accommodation with the States, which is now oppos'd by the Province of *Holland*, and she alone hinders it, notwithstanding the other six Provinces have agreed to it; and there being a Sum of 3500000 Livres owing by the Elector to the States of *Holland*, she always broke off the Affair by standing upon the Payment of the whole Sum down, which may be abated, and set Times appointed for the paying it, more commodious for the Elector; but this should not be done, was it
not

not for his Obligation to your Majesty, which he would tell me plainly, being very glad he had any Opportunity to shew his Gratitude, as he would be always ready to do whenever it lay his Power; he desir'd me to write to your Majesty to cause the Decrees issu'd out in Pursuance of the Treaty to be executed, it being of very great Importance to him, the Cities of *Holland* should see this Affair terminated, because they gave it him in Charge at their Separation. Your Majesty will find a Memorial hereunto annex'd. Monsieur de *Cromon*, the Deputy appointed to go to *Zealand*, and a good Friend of mine, has brought the Confirmation of his Province for the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, and has given an Act by which she approves and confirms all that has been resolv'd by the Province of *Holland*; he is assur'd all the Provinces will do the same.

I have not slacken'd my Endeavours to procure the Duke of *Newburgh* Satisfaction in your Majesty's Name, and I have brought things into a good Disposition by softning Men's Minds, which could not be done by Memorials in the Assembly, which would rather have sowr'd them; but by taking two or three Days time to visit my Friends in private, I brought them out of the ill Humour they were in, on account of the Duke of *Newburgh's* Order to expel the Hugonots out of *Dusseldorp*, whose Ministers made a great Noise, and had got most of the States to incline to have Reprisals made them; thus I have been so happy as to get the Face of this Affair chang'd, and 'tis agreed between Monsieur de *Wit* and me, that he and the Baron de *Lerode* come to my House to morrow, and without mentioning the Complaints in the Memorial, or the Expulsion of the Protestants, we enter immediately upon Business in the same Method we resolv'd upon, and that out of regard to your Majesty he should do his utmost towards accommodating this Matter. I have inform'd the Baron de *Lerode* of it, who din'd with me, and thank'd me very much for my good Offices; so that

that the Affair cannot be in a better Posture than now it is. I most humbly intreat your Majesty to do me the Honour to believe, nothing shall put me out of the way in which I ought to keep for your Majesty's Service; and tho' the Ministers of the Princes for whom I act by your Orders, may make false Steps, I shall forthwith endeavour to remedy it, and so recover things that their Masters may receive no Prejudice. I hope Time will shew your Majesty better what my Endeavours are, and that I shall never have any stronger Inclination than that of Labouring to bring those things to pass, which are agreeable to your Majesty, without considering in any wise my own Interest. The *Sieur de Wicquefort* writes so particularly to *Monfieur de Lionne*, on what pass in *Zealand* on the Ratification of the Treaty made between the Provinces of *Holland* and *Zealand*, and for the Interests of the Prince, that I shall not say any thing of it here, but refer my self to his Letter; as also for what *Monfieur de Wit* has done by his Address and Credit to get the Form of Petitions alter'd, and the Province of *Holland* acknowledg'd to be Sovereign. He is certainly a great Man, and a Person of a great Capacity; when your Majesty knows he's but thirty six Years of Age, that he has been ten Years in the highest Employments, that he manages all Foreign Affairs as well as Domestick, with great Courage, Address and Authority, when he has occasion to shew it, I'm certain your Majesty will be convinc'd he's a Man of extraordinary Merit; he has confirm'd me in this Opinion the more, by his engaging so entirely in your Majesty's Interests, wherein he has shewn his Judgment.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
April 5, 1663.

AS to the Duke of *Newburgh's* Affairs, the Baron *de Lerode* was the first of this Month summon'd to a Conference at my House with Monsieur *de Wit*; he propos'd a certain Number of Villages and Lordships on the other side the River *Gent*, bordering on the Country of *Juliers*, in exchange for *Ravestein*; and some of 'em being in the King of *Spain's* Division, he desires the States to give the said King others for them near *Limburgh*, that the Duke of *Newburgh* may the better find his Account in it.

Monsieur *de Wit* has undertaken to propose it to the States of *Holland* to get their Consent, and he has told me he does not find any Difficulty about it, in those with whom he has already discours'd touching this Affair; that even the States will soon consent to the Exchanges with the King of *Spain*, after the Baron *de Lerode* has got the Consent of the *Spaniards*, and that he would also facilitate all things with the Province of *Holland*, as much as in him lay.

As to *Lenth*, the Baron *de Lerode* insists very much, that the Castle should be holden of the Empire, that he demands Satisfaction concerning it, and the Suit to be referr'd to the Chamber of *Spire*. Monsieur *de Wit* reply'd, 'twas a Fief of *Fauquemont*, of which the States are Sovereigns; that the Suit lay before the Court of *Holland*, and Sentence was there given against the Baron of *Viremons* in favour of the Count *de Flodorf*, who is their Vassal; but notwithstanding their Rights they were willing to come to an Accommodation, at the Request and through the Mediation of your Majesty. I thought my self oblig'd to tell the Baron *de Lerode*, that it did not appear to me that he was concern'd to maintain the Emperor's Right to *Lenth*; but to leave it to the *Sieur Friquet*, the Emperor's

peror's Agent, who has Instructions about it, and keep to the Process, which is the Cause of all the Disorder; and that by getting Satisfaction for the Baron de Viremont, he would procure it also for the Duke of Newburgh to whom he belong'd, and the Duke had a particular Kindness for him; that the way to put an end to the Affair, was not to refer it to the Chamber of Spire, neither indeed that the Court of Holland should be Judges of the Suit, but to agree to get her Con-Arbitrators with two Supernumeraries to decide the Difference, which should be compromis'd, on pain of a considerable Sum to be forfeited by the Party who should refuse to stand by it.

Monsieur de Wit approv'd the Proposal I made, and promis'd to get the Count de Flordorf to approve of it also. The Baron de Lerode said, he could not go so far without the Duke of Newburgh's Approbation; but he might leave the Emperor's Interests to the Management of the Sieur Friquet, and agree on friendly Mediators to examine the Right of both Parties, to which Monsieur De Wit consented; but he and I do not believe this Expedient is more decisive than the first. When a Minister says he has no Power, no Reply is to be made. In the mean while, I foresee this Affair will run out into Length; the Duke of Newburgh being in Germany, and his Answers long a coming, notwithstanding all things are so dispos'd by Monsieur De Wit to end it in a little time. I was very glad that this Business was left to the Sieur Friquet, to demand Satisfaction of the States in the name of his Master, as to the Jurisdiction of Leuth's depending on the Empire; because 'twill engage him in a Complaint wherein I am sure he will not receive Satisfaction; Monsieur De Wit having told me plainly, the Province of Holland has resolv'd to answer the Sieur Friquet, that what has pass'd at Leuth was done according to Law, and upon mature deliberation of the States, it being their Sovereignty. But though it were a Dependance of the Empire, which they do not believe, they wou'd nevertheless have done the

the same. Your Majesty will see, by the States Answer to the Resident of *Sweden*, that they manage their Affairs with Steadiness and Vigour. Monsieur *De Wit* acquainted me with it before the States declar'd it, and he continues to carry himself towards me with all sort of Confidence. He told me also, that *Don Esteven de Gamarre* wou'd have perswaded him the Baron de *Lorode* pretended to be here about the Affairs of *Ravestein* and *Lentz*, but that he knew very well 'twas to Treat with me for the Dutchy of *Fuliers*, and he ought to consider of what ill Consequence it would be for *Germany* and these Provinces to see your Majesty's Troops Posted in *Fuliers* and *Dunkirk*. Monsieur *De Wit* reply'd, His Masters were not Allarm'd at your Majesty's Neighbourhood, and he did not believe the Information he had given him; forasmuch as by an Article of the Treaty made with *Spain*, the Duke of *Newburgh* was oblig'd not to part with it; and your Majesty was Guaranty of it. No body can behave himself better than Monsieur *De Wit* does, on all Occasions wherein your Majesty's Interests are concern'd; and he is so willing to forward the terminating the Affair with the Duke of *Newburgh*, that he spoke to *Don Esteven de Gamarre* himself about the Exchange of the Villages; he is also very well dispos'd towards the Restitution of the Estates belonging to the Order of *Maltha*, and what remains to be adjusted with Reference to the Elector of *Cologne*, and the Affair of *Berckelo*, which we shall go upon again when the Province of *Holland* meets on the 17th of this Month.

Things are in the same State they were when I wrote your Majesty the 30th past: I have made the Sieur *de Wit* promise me again not to speak a word of it: The Ambassador of *Spain*, notwithstanding the Answer Monsieur *de Wit* made him, continues to set his Emisaries at Work in the Cities, and all the Provinces, to create a Jealousie of a Treaty for *Fuliers*, which he assures 'em is true. I do what I can, and so do my Friends, to shew the contrary, treating the Ambassa-
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dor's Report as a malicious Device, which discovers very little Sincerity in the Ambassador, who supposes things contrary to all Reason and Truth, to alienate the Affections of these People in all the Provinces to your Majesty.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 11, 1663.

‘ **T**H O’ the Count *D’Estades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, supposes the Lord Ambassador *Boreel* has not fail’d to give your Lordships Advice of the King his Master’s Care, to have the Exchange of the Ratifications speedily executed, yet he thought it proper to observe to your Lordships, that his Majesty, not contented with offering to Exchange the Ratifications immediately, and causing a List of all the Treaties that are to be exhibited, before the Exchange, to be put into your Ambassador’s Hands, as they are compriz’d in the General Guaranty, sign’d by the Count *de Brienne*, Secretary of State and of his Majesty’s Orders, and with suffering Monsieur *de Boreel* to mark them, that he may be sure the Number is not augmented, and no Alteration nor Change made, his Majesty has further given express Orders to the Count *de Brienne*, actually to deliver the Lord Ambassador, before the Departure of the last Post, his Ratification in good Form, with the List of the Treaties aforesaid, and not to require your Lordships Ratifications; tho’ properly speaking, his Majesty binds himself by it, and you are left at Liberty to do as you please, which is a way of Proceeding so extraordinary, that it may be said to be a thing without Example.

‘ Where-

Wherefore the said Ambassador Extraordinary, assures himself, your Lordships will be entirely satisfy'd with his Majesty's Conduct in this Affair, that you will believe the Delay of the Exchange of the Ratifications was occasion'd by innocent Causes, and will thence think you have reason to have an entire Confidence in his Word, Affection and Sincerity, of which your Lordships ought to expect Proofs on all Occasions. Done at the *Hague*, April 11, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
April 12, 1663.

AFTER having discours'd Monsieur de Wit, pursuant to your Majesty's Orders in your four Dispatches, on the Proposition that had been made him, and shewn him with what Satisfaction your Majesty receiv'd the Tokens he had given him of his Friendship and Esteem, by his acquainting you with an Affair of so great Importance, which you approv'd of, and to which you heartily consented, exhorting him as much as it was possible for you, not to lose so fair an Occasion to immortalize his Glory, by procuring so considerable an Advantage for his Country and the Publick Good; I told him your Majesty desir'd him to consider time was precious, that Peoples Wills are variable, and Prudence requir'd that one should not give 'em an Opportunity of long Debates to change their Minds; that 'twas of the last Importance to hasten the Conclusion of so great Affair, before the Emperor's Brother arriv'd in *Flanders*, whose coming might give Affairs another Face, render People more reserv'd, and not so forward to seek after Safety and Repose the way they are now willing to take: To which I added, he might observe by your Majesty's disinterested Con-

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duct, that your Designs tended more to the Interests of your Friends and Neighbours than your own; and that he might draw the Consequences from it, that his Thoughts and Mine, which we had several times open'd to one another on several sorts of Affairs, are not conformable to your Majesty's, as it appear'd now in this Case, wherein your Majesty's Sentiments on this Proposal are quite different from those I had had. He reply'd, he admir'd your Majesty's prudent Conduct and Moderation, very far different from what your Enemies publish; that as for himself, he should always desire your Greatness, and that your Power should increase, hoping for your Protection, and relying entirely upon it; that 'twas on this Basis he would tell me sincerely your Majesty might trust him, he would serve you with great Fidelity. That as to the Proposal made by the four Deputies of *Flanders*, 'twas good, if all the other Bodies of the States join'd in it, and had a Chief to begin the Expulsion of the *Spaniards*; in which Case he would not hesitate to propose it to the States of *Holland*, and to push it in other Provinces, assuring the Deputies of their Protection. But to make the Proposition while things were so uncertain in *Flanders*, and before all Measures were well concerted for the Success of so great Design, he did not think it ought to be done, nor even mention'd to any one whatsoever; Peoples Affections in this State being divided, and the *Spaniards* having Friends, and even Pensioners in it. That he would immediately send to *North Holland*, for the Deputies to come hither, who perhaps may open themselves more than they have done, and your Majesty should have a faithful Account of every thing that pass. He added, if they would have hearken'd to him, when your Majesty had an Army in the middle of *Flanders*, they would all have join'd with you to form a Republick of the seventeen Provinces, which would have been for the Quiet and Security of all of them. If Monsieur *de Wit* had drawn any Consequence from our Discourse prejudicial to your Majesty's

Majesty's Service, it would have already appear'd : But I dare assure your Majesty, he enter'd upon this Matter with me, as well as on a great many others, with a Design to find out the Means for him to gain more Credit with your Majesty ; and I am certain, if he found you were dispos'd to secure the *Low-Countries* to you, he would be more glad of it, than to leave things in the State they now are. I have observed this from what he said, that those who hate and envy him, are push'd on and supported by the King of *Spain*, and that he will not fear them as long as he is protected by your Majesty. What likelihood is there, Sir, that in a Conduct such as his, he would lose this Advantage, all his Actions and Steps seeming to be sincere, and to have no other Aim but to gain your Majesty's Friendship and Protection? I most humbly entreat you to excuse me, if I have open'd my self too much to the said *Sieur de Wit*, tho' it has been always as from my self, without engaging your Majesty in the least, or that he can be able to judge of your Sentiments by mine, and to believe the Fault I have committed, is rather out of Weakness and an indiscreet Zeal for your Service, than any other Cause. But I shall be more reserv'd for the future.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 April 12, 1663.

I Had clos'd my Dispatch when I receiv'd a Billet from *Monsieur de Wit*, to desire me to Excuse his not coming to me because of his Cold, and to tell me, he wish'd he could speak to me before the Post went. I went presently to him, and he told he would communicate a Thought that had come into his Head to me, having no manner of Reserve for me ; and that way, if the Affair of the Deputies did not succeed, as there were many Reasons to fear it would not as long

As the King of *Spain* liv'd, he having still Force enough in *Flanders* to chastise the Authors of such a Conspiracy, which indeed could hardly succeed well unless 'twas general, and it did not appear yet that it was so; it would not be amiss, if they began now to begin to dispose the Minds of them in *Flanders*, by insinuating to them the Evils they are threatned with by the said King's Death, and order Affairs so as to form a Republick then, if it cannot be done now. And it being reasonable every one should think of himself, and of what best agrees with each, and can give no Umbrage, he thought it his Duty to make one Proposal more, which is that *Flanders* being erected into a Republick, your Majesty might have *Cambray*, *St. Omer*, *Aire*, all *Artois*, *Bergue* *St. Vinox*, *Furnes*, and *Newport*; and the States *Ostend*, *Bruges*, and what is on that Continent as far as *l'Ecluse*, and other Places according as they lye convenient for each State, as may be consider'd of at more Leisure, and of the rest to form a Republick to be ally'd and supported by your Majesty and the States. That he doubted not Umbrage would be given your Majesty, that a Republick in *Flanders*, supported by and ally'd to the Lords the States, and assisted by several other Neighbours, would all together be too powerful, and when a juncture of Time permitted might make War upon *France*, as the Dukes of *Burgundy* did several times; that it also might be said on their side, that the Republick of *Flanders* joining with *France*, this State would be in great Danger, and that such a Power as that of *Spain* will be always more for her Advantage, But without stopping at these Arguments, he thought their Safety was in your Majesty's good Conduct, and the Sincerity with which you carry'd your self towards this State, by explaining your Intentions so obligingly and disinterestedly, according to the Report I had made him on the Answer to our last Discourse, did not leave any room for the least Diffidence, but

to rejoice that they had to do with so good and so judicious a King as your Majesty.

That as to the Suspensions which your Majesty might receive of the Power and Alliances of this State with her Neighbours, they were destroy'd of themselves by her Constitution, which only demanded Security, Liberty of Trade, and to have no more Territories and Countries than shall fall to her share; so that 'tis easie to believe, neither the one nor the other having any occasion of Jealousie or Umbrage, and on the contrary, that all Confidence being establish'd as it now is, things will in the course of time be carry'd on with so great Union, that he hopes he might contribute something great for your Majesty's Glory and Service. I answer'd, he did your Majesty Justice for the good Opinion he had of you, since he daily saw the Effects of your Majesty's Goodness and Value for his Person, by your trusting your most important Affairs with him.

That he might see, by your Majesty's Sentiments, what Affection you bore the States: That you always shew'd a desire to procure Advantages for them, without having any other Interest in View. But that I could make him no Reply to any of the things he had communicated to me, I having not seen by your Dispatches, that your Majesty had any Thoughts of aggrandizing your self on the side of *Flanders*; on the contrary, you were contented with what you held, without being desirous of enlarging your Limits, and that I would give your Majesty an account of what had been told me; and he would, by the Orders I receiv'd thereon, perceive how kindly your Majesty took the Affection he shew'd for your Interests.

Then I continu'd to tell him that there was nothing the Success of which his Majesty wish'd for more, for the Interest of the State and his own Glory, than that of the Proposal of the Deputies from *Flanders*; and that I desir'd him, when they return'd from *North Holland*, to do his utmost with them, to get them to come to a vigorous Resolution; he reply'd, he had told me

thereupon all that was in his Power, and that he desir'd it might succeed more than any one, and would omit nothing that was possible for him to do to effect it.

Monsieur de Wit added, the States had in August last resolv'd that Monsieur Berescl should not, in the List of Treaties, admit those to enter into the Guaranty which had not receiv'd their last Perfection, comprizing only those that were ratify'd before the signing the Treaty of the 27th of April, 1662. conformably to the seventh * Article of the separate Articles, and that he did not think this State could be oblig'd to Guarant the Treaty made at *Fountainblain* with *Sweden*, which was not ratify'd till a long time after the Treaty made with this State, and even as it was, had been since chang'd, nor that made with the Arch-duce of *Innsbruck*, for the Payment of three Millions.

That he thinks also this State is not oblig'd to Guarant any other Treaties, but what *France* has made, and wherein she is directly engag'd, and not those that have been made with other Kings, wherein *France* was concern'd only as Mediator. That the Treaties of *Copenhagen* and *Oliva* are of this Nature; tho' as to the first, there's nothing that can hinder this State's accommodating her self to the King's Pleasure, if his Majesty will have a little Guaranty made on purpose for it: But as to the Treaty of *Oliva*, 'tis not at all for the Interest of this State that it should be executed, but the quite contrary; that he knows not also why the Treaty made with the Protector in the Year 1655 is brought into the List; and having formerly

written

* VH. In as much as, the Treaty of Peace made between the King of Portugal, and the Lords the States of the United-Provinces, is not yet ratify'd, and that the Guaranty is not to be understood but for Treaties that have pass in good and due Form; 'Tis agreed, his Majesty shall not be oblig'd to any Guaranty against the said King of Portugal, 'till after the said Treaty made, or any other to be made, to end the War they have now be duly ratify'd; in which Case it shall be compriz'd in the Guaranty, as well as the other Treaties, as has been agreed on.

written to Monsieur *Borel*, that if your Majesty thought it for his Advantage, this State wou'd make no scruple to Guarrant it, which Advantage did not appear to him; the said *Sieur Borel* answer'd, it was put in by Mistake, and that Messieurs de *Brienne* had assur'd him it should be stricken out.

From the King to the Count D'Estades :
April 13, 1663.

I Have seen the Answer the Chancellor of *England* has made you, which has confirm'd me more in my Suspensions, that his Master's Mind, as to our Union, is chang'd, than all the other Considerations which made me suspect it before. There are a great many better Reasons that a cunning Man might have us'd to have excus'd his Delays; his Gout, the Affairs of the new Parliament in its beginning, the inapplication of some Subaltern Ministers, would have been much better than complaining that the *Sieur de Cominge* has not yet taken on him the Quality of Ambassador. 'Tis absurd to say, it is necessary for the making a Treaty, it being enough if he has the Power. *Lionne* concluded the Treaty of Peace at *Madrid*, hid in a Hole of *Buen Retiro*. Besides, they know very well in *England*, they themselves were the Cause of *Cominge's* putting off his Entry, by the Difficulties which, I may say, they started without Reason; tho' I have since in Part comply'd with them, that the blame might lye upon them if the Treaty did not go on. The Complaint Chancellor *Hyde* adds at the end of his Letter, that ill Offices have been done him with me, seems to be a Pretence which he drops beforehand, to excuse the blow he knows, perhaps, his Master is meditating, to unite rather with the *Spaniards* than with me. *Cominge* will by this time have made his Entry, and yet 'tis thought they will not make the greater haste to treat with him.

All these *Enigma's* will be soon unriddled, and I shall know what I have to do; in the mean while I have thought you may reply, you are sure no Body is able to do the said Chancellor any ill Offices with me, unless 'tis himself, by changing his Mind and Conduct, which you believe will not happen; that you know, I set a value on, and depend upon his Friendship, and tho' the Quality of Ambassador does not seem to you to be very necessary for the concluding a Treaty, when the Person is so impower'd, that Reason will now cease by the *Sieur de Cominge's* Publick Entry; and then you expect the first News you receive will be that of a closer Union between your Masters, since he continues to assure you he desires it, and you dare answer that the Inclination I have discover'd to you thereto is rather encreas'd than alter'd.

I have receiv'd two Informations of Consequence, which I must communicate to you; but do you exercise in it your wonted Discretion and Prudence, that the Person I had them from may not be expos'd. One is, that *Esteven de Gamarre* pretends he has gain'd, for the League he's soliciting, a great Friend and near Relation of the *Sieur de Wit's*, by means of another Relation that Friend has in the Council of *Brabant*; and my Opinion hereon is, that without entring into Particulars with the said *de Wit*, you content your self to give him Warning, that he stands upon his Guard, as to any Counsels that Friend and Relation may give him, with reference to the Affairs of *Spain*, because you are very well satisfy'd he has a great Inclination for the *Spaniards*, and great Converse with *Gamarre*.

The other, That the *Sieur de Mauriac*, who has an Employment in the States Service, and obtain'd it at the Recommendation of *Gamarre*, is entirely at his Devotion, and gives him an Account of every thing he can learn at your House, or elsewhere; as to this, 'tis sufficient you have Notice of the thing, to prevent your People, and particularly your Secretary's, opening them-

themselves to him, as they may very well do, believing him to be a good *Frenchman*. You need not give him any Reprimand, nor even let him see you know any thing of his ill Conduct.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March. 22, 1663.

I Read Monsieur *de Wit* the first Article of the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the 13th Instant, concerning the Order you had given Monsieur *de Lionne*, to write to Monsieur *Boreel*. I also at the same time gave him a Copy of Monsieur *de Lionne's* Letter to the said *Boreel*, which he was glad to see, and told me, 'twas necessary that Matters should be made clear, to take away all the Umbrage some ill dispos'd Persons might conceive at what the said *Boreel* had written: But that he assur'd me, all things would go well, and entreated your Majesty to agree that the Treaty of *Paris* be executed according to its Tenour; it importing, that neither Party should be oblig'd to guarant any Treaties which had not receiv'd their last Perfection before the Treaty was sign'd, such as the Treaty of *Sweden*, and that made with the Archduke for the three Millions: And that also those Treaties only should be guaranteed, which the King, or this State, had made on their own Accounts, and not those which other Kings had made between themselves; and in which, neither the King, nor this State, are concern'd but as Mediators; such are those of *Copenhagen*, and *Oliva*. He said further, 'twas of Importance the thing should pass in that manner, to confirm all the Provinces in the Assurances the said *Sieur de Wit* has given them, that your Majesty only desires to execute what is stipulated in the Treaty you have sign'd, and to which they gave their Consent; that he confirm'd the Word he gave me eight Days ago.

ago, that there would be no difficulty in guaranteeing the Treaties made with Sweden, and the Archduke, separately from the Treaty of Paris, whenever your Majesty would have it so. Which will have the same effect with regard to you, and leave them an entire Liberty to act according to the Constitutions of this State. He added further, he had talk'd to the two Deputies, who had told him nothing more than he had communicated to me before; he prest them to tell him who was the Chief, what Preparations they had made for so great a Design, what Alliances they had to support it, and that they would give him their Proposals in writing, for him to receive his Masters Instructions therein, which he would acquaint them with.

They answer'd, they had no Orders to apply to any one but him, to know if he could procure them the Alliance and Protection of the Province of *Holland*. They could not give him any thing in writing, having no Authority to do it, and the Affair being desir'd to be kept secret, 'twould be a means of rendering it publick, if Proposals were given in Writing, and communicated to the Province of *Holland*. The said *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, that since they did not approve of what he had told them, they had nothing to do but to put their own Design in Execution; assuring them, that when they had done what they propos'd, he would dispose the Province of *Holland* to enter into an Alliance with them, and favour their Designs as much as in him lay; after which they departed.

The *Sieur de Wit* added to all this, that perhaps the *Spaniards* might make use of these Men to engage him in a Negotiation, to ruin his Credit with his Masters, and that he knew they were deceitful enough to do it. But be it as it would, he ran no risk, because they could prove nothing; and if 'twas true, that those People intended to set up a Republick, what he had said was sufficient to oblige them to go to Work; time will shew us the truth of the Matter. But whether your
Majesty's

Majesty's Thought at first, that 'tis a *Chimera*, or that of Monsieur de *Wis*, that 'tis a Trick of the *Spaniards* to ruin him, be true, 'twill be a great advantage to your Majesty to have so well satisfy'd Monsieur de *Wis*, by all that's contain'd in your Dispatches, that your Thoughts are very far from aggrandizing your self in *Flanders*, by your approving of this Proposal, and the repeated Instances I have us'd with him from your Majesty, to forward this Affair, as advantageous to the State, and glorious for himself; upon which he has often declar'd to me, he cannot enough admire your Majesty's Moderation therein.

What your Majesty foresaw is but too true, that the *Spaniards* under-hand raise Obstacles in the Execution of the Exchange of the Villages in the Country of *Ostrenouffe*, which lye commodious for the Duke of *Newburgh*; they have not hitherto made any haste to fulfil their Promises therein; But without stopping at that, Monsieur de *Wis* is of Opinion, that the Baron de *Loreda* take what the the States have in their Power; and when the *Spaniards* find that their backwardness does not hinder the Exchange, they will be the more easie to treat for the said Villages, which are Commodious for the Duke of *Newburgh*. I have also insisted very much on having the Catholick Religion preserv'd in the Places bordering on the Country of *Ravestein*, where 'tis Exercis'd; but Monsieur de *Wis* makes a great Difficulty of it, for that the greatest Part of the Catholicks are their Subjects, and of the Mayary of *Beisseloue*, where the Prohibitions are rigorous, saying the Ministers will be sure to cry out, and preach against this Toleration, that the People will join with them, and their Petitions being presented to him, he will be oblig'd by his Office to back them.

I told him he had a good Excuse to avoid it, and even to shew the States, the Ministers and People, that those Prohibitions are not founded on Reason, because the Territory of *Ravestein* did not come to them by any litigious Claim nor force of Arm^s, but only by the voluntary

tary Consent of the Lord who treated with the States, instigated to it by your Majesty's Counsels, rather to accommodate the Differences then depending, and prevent others for the future, than for any other Consideration; so that the said States having all the Advantage of this Exchange, 'tis reasonable they should consider your Majesty could not procure it, nor give his Consent to it, but on condition the Catholick Religion be preserv'd; that to shew the better how much your Majesty desires the Repose and Union of your Friends, I dare promise him the Exercise of the Protestant Religion should be left in the Villages where 'tis already settled, with Liberty to the People to go to the Sermons. He answer'd, the Proposal was not equal, that there were not ten Families of their Religion in the Villages they gave the Duke of *Newburgh*, and 50000 Catholicks in the County of *Ravestein* and Mayory of *Boisleduc*, who had no other Churches but those I would have preserv'd; but to shew the desire he had to do something that might be agreeable to your Majesty, he promis'd to make the Affair as easie with his Masters as he could; and to give him the means to do it, I should advise the Baron *de Lerode* to get the Minister of one of the principal Villages that are to be yielded up to come and complain to the Province of *Holland* that they are abandon'd, and that they pray'd them in the Name of their Flocks to preserve in that Quarter their Church, and the Exercise of their Religion. I told the said Baron *de Lerode* of this Expedient with which he was very well pleas'd, and sent away for the said Minister immediately, he being a Friend of his, so that I hope the thing will succeed as we would have it.

The Cities of *Leyden*, *Haerlem*, and *Utrecht*, are more against the Restitution of the Estates belonging to Order of *Maltha*, than ever; and tho' they have been convinc'd of the Reasons that are for it, the success of that Affair is doubtful. I shall, however, continue to apply my self to it with Care as I have hitherto done.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
April 20, 1663.

IN the first Place I will tell you, I am very glad the *Sieur de Wit* is sensible, and sees so plainly, by your discovering to him my most secret Thoughts and Intentions on the Proposals which have been made him, that I am not so dangerous a Neighbour, nor a Prince so immoderately Ambitious, nor so covetous of another's Territories, as my Enemies have publish'd, with odious Exaggerations, to create every where a Jealousie of my Power. As to that, I thank God, as I have already written you, I think my Lot is good enough of it self, to cure me of any Concern or violent Desire to extend my Dominion; and provided I can keep those who do not love me (whose vast Designs, or too great Power, ought to be suspected by me) in a Condition to do me no hurt, I shall think my self happy enough in what I have, and be very well contented with my present State.

In the mean time, if my Answer and Resolutions pleas'd the said *Sieur de Wit* so extreamly as you write me; in return I am not less touch'd nor edify'd with what he again told you, with so much Prudence, and such proof of Affection for my Person, and glory, on the same Matter; and to say truth, I find he talk'd to you with so much Judgment and Capacity, that I cannot but approve his Sentiments in all things; and for the Conclusion, I cannot in this Affair do better than resign the Direction of it into so good Hands as his, and leave the Management of it wholly to his Zeal and Ability. It seems as if God had design'd him for great Things, since, young as he is, he has for several Years deserv'd the most considerable Station in the Republick, and I think also that my acquiring so good a Friend in him is not the Effect of Hazard, but of Divine Providence, which
prepares

prepares in good time the Instruments it would make use of for the Glory of this Crown, and the Advantage and Safety of the *United Provinces*.

From all these Sentiments, which are very natural and sincere in me, the said *Sieur de Wit* may infer what sort of powerful Protection he may expect from me in all his Interests, if Occasion ever should offer. The only Complaint I have against him is, that I having such an Esteem of and Affection for his Person, he will not put the Means into my Hands to give him some effectual Marks of them, which I should do with a great deal of Joy, and if you can bring him to accept of them, you will do me a very agreeable Piece of Service.

Continue in the mean while to represent to him how important it is to improve Opportunities, when Matters are well dispos'd, and not leave to the Levity of the People, the Leisure and Means of changing Thoughts. I shall expect with impatience to know what pass between the said *Sieur de Wit*, and the two Deputies, at their return from *North Holland*.

From the King to the Count D'Estades :
April 20, 1663.

I Saw very well, tho' the *Sieur de Wit* said nothing to you of it, what was the true secret Mystery of this Deliberation of the States, as to their Guaranting the Treaties to me, which were not made before ours was Sign'd; it do's not in any wise regard the Treaty of *Fontainebleau* made with *Sweden*, nor that with the Archduke, they containing only very ordinary Matters, wherein no Difficulty can arise, neither concerning the Matters nor the Form. The Policy conceal'd under it is, the States would by this Generality exclude in Particular, without being oblig'd to Explain themselves, the last Treaty I made the 6th of *February* 1662, with

with the Duke of *Lorraine*, under pretence 'twas not Ratify'd; tho' to take things rightly between Sovereigns, who Sign a Treaty themselves, there's no need of a Ratification, their signing only being sufficient to shew their Intention.

But this is not now the Matter in Dispute, and the States may see, by the List of the Treaties to be Guaranteed which I put into the Hands of *Sieur Berrel*, I have not Comprehended this second Treaty with the Duke of *Lorraine*; and thus I of my self prevented their secret Intentions, without their having any occasion to use all this Mystery, and so many Artifices. As to the Treaty with *Sweden*, and that with the Archduke, tho' the *Sieur de Wis* has declar'd to you, they wou'd do in that whatever I wou'd have 'em, 'tis equal and indifferent to me, whether they Guarant them to me now, or refer this Guaranty to the New Agreement to be made by us, for the like Guaranties of Treaties that were not made, or had not receiv'd their last Perfection, before the Treaty of our Alliance was Sign'd; as that of the Acquisition of *Dunkirk*, the States Treaty with *England*, and that of the Division of the Country of *Outremense*.

As for the other Treaties wherein I was not one of the Parties Contracting, but concern'd only as a Mediator, and have since promis'd to Guarant them, as those of *Copenhagen* and *Olinda*, I'm very well content to strike 'em out of the List of those which are to be Guaranteed to me; since the States, who might have Exhibited some of the same Nature, have not done it. As to that made with *Cromwell*, in the Year 1655, I continue to desire the Guaranty, of which the States cannot make any reasonable Difficulty.

However, you will have an Opportunity, by all my Conduct in this Affair from the beginning to the end, to observe where you are with what Sincerity I have proceeded, how ready I have been in a great many ways to do every thing I knew the States might desire of me for our consummation of the Treaty, from whence they

they may infer, with what Faith and Exactness I shall on my part accomplish it, as Opportunity shall offer,

I have order'd the Resident of *Sweden* to be talk'd with effectually, about the two Disputes of the Ship, and the Fort of *Guinney*, which might alter the good Correspondence between that Crown and the States. He has promis'd to write to the Regent of the Kingdom, how earnest I am to have these Differences forthwith Adjusted, that they may have no ill Consequences. In the mean time you may assure the *Sieur de Wit* I was very much touch'd with what he told you, that he would get all the Interests of the States referr'd to me, and will be determin'd by my Judgment, according to what I thought equitable; if the *Swedes* are in the same Disposition, there will be no need to fear that any Inconvenience will happen from this Misunderstanding.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:

April 26, 1663.

THE Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write in Cyphers of the 20th Instant, seem'd to me so obliging for Monsieur *de Wit*, and your Majesty's Thoughts and Intentions were therein so clearly explain'd, to confound all the false Reports your Enemies have spread in this Country of your Power and Ambition, that I thought it proper to give it him to read, and I can assure your Majesty, his Joy to find himself so much in your Majesty's good Graces was extraordinary: I took hold of that Opportunity, to take notice to him of the Complaint your Majesty made against him, that he would not give you the Means to acknowledge what was due to his Merit, and the Affection your Majesty had for him; to which he reply'd, he was rewarded much beyond whatever Services he should ever be able to do your Majesty, by the
Proofs

Proofs you gave him of your Affection and Confidence, and that he did again give me his Word he would never fail in Fidelity, for every thing that had regard to your Majesty's Service and Glory; I told him it depended on him to let me make my Court to your Majesty, and that I pray'd him to read the Order you had given me at the end of the Letter over again; to which he answer'd, that he had more than he durst ever hope for, and that after the Assurances your Majesty gave him of his Protection, and the honour of his Friendship, he had nothing more to desire; not but that I could perceive your Majesty's Offers touch'd him very nearly, however I did not think fit to press him further, nor do any thing in it more warmly, because of the Juncture of this Assembly which is not in his Favour; 'tis true, by his Dexterity in managing them he has so order'd it, that what he cannot do one Day he does another, and obliges them at last to fall in with him. I have done my self the Honour to write to your Majesty every thing that past relating to the two Deputies before their departure, and of Monsieur de Wit's Thought, he suspecting they were employ'd by the *Spaniards* to embark him in a secret Negotiation to ruin him with his Masters; but this being a Suspicion only, he told me if these Men did any thing of themselves in *Flanders*, he would make no difficulty to get the Province of *Holland* to favour them, and would also get the other Provinces to do it in time.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
April 26, 1663.

I Have acquainted the *Sieur de Wit* with your Majesty's Intentions, as to the Guaranty of the Treaties with *Sweden* and the Archduke, and that you consent that Guaranty be refer'd to the new Agreement to be
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made for the like Guaranties of Treaties, which were not fully consummated before that of the Alliance; and as to the Treaty made with *Cromwell* in the Year 1655, your Majesty desir'd it might be guaranted, of which *Monsieur de Wit* made no difficulty, and told me the States should send Orders about it to *Monsieur Boreel*; I also observ'd to him how obliging your Majesty's Conduct in all this Affair was to the States, and he agreed that it was so.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
April 27, 1663.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 19th Instant: You will have seen by mine of the last Week, how ready I was to comply with every thing they could desire with you, concerning the List of the Treaties to be guaranted on both Sides, agreeing not to conclude any but such in which I was Principal, and consequently to exclude the Treaties of *Oliva* and *Copenhagen*, wherein I was concern'd as a Mediator; as also to refer to a new Agreement the two Treaties I have made with *Sweden*, and the Archduke of *Innsbruck*. And I was very glad to hear the *Sieur de Wit* had promis'd you, there should be no difficulty in the Guaranty of those two Treaties, provided I guaranted those of *London*, and the Exchange of the Country of *Outremense* to the States.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
May 3, 1663.

I Receiv'd the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the 27th of the last Month: Your Majesty's Proceedings towards the States were
so

fo sincere in the Beginning and the End of the Treaty, to the Exchange of the Ratifications, that I can assure your Majesty they have had a very good Effect for your Majesty's Service, and you will have perceiv'd by my former Dispatches, after what manner all the Provinces acted in the Guaranty of the Town of *Dunkirk*, which pass with all the Expedition that one could desire.

When I had read the Letter Monsieur de *Lionne* wrote me, about the Difficulty Monsieur *Boreel* made to Guarant the Treaty of *Quieras*, to Monsieur de *Wit*, I complain'd to him of that Proceeding, and pray'd the said Sieur de *Wit* to send Orders about it, and let the said Sieur *Boreel* know that his Acting in such a Manner does not at all advance his Masters Service; he does not approve of what he said to Monsieur de *Lionne*, and desir'd me to leave the Letter with him, that he might read it to the States of *Holland*, to whom he so effectually represented the Justice there was in passing the said Treaty of Guaranty, that the Assembly resolv'd it should be done, and that the said Sieur *Boreel* be written to that they did not approve of his opposing it as he did.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 3, 1663.

Monsieur de *Wit* having of himself talk'd to me of the Opinion he had, that these two Deputies were employ'd by the *Spaniards* to Embarrass him in this Assembly, I made use of what your Majesty did me the Honour to write me in the Letter in Cypher, telling him I could scarce think it, and that 'twould be treacherous in the *Spaniards* to endeavour to surprize him; and besides they would shew their weakness in attempting a Person, who knew that matter better than any one else in *Holland*; further, 'twas not likely he would con-

side in those People in so delicate an Affair. He reply'd, he had gone through Affairs which were much more dangerous for them, on which they had made no Reflections; that they were not so penetrating as I imagin'd; that such a Head as Don *Esteven de Gamarre's*, was capable of making such a Proposal, only to have the Honour of discovering it. I told him, since he knew his ill Design, he might do him the same Service, by discrediting him with his Master; that if, before the Assembly of *Holland* broke up, he could get them to resolve that the five Ships which are ready in the *Texell* should depart to go Cruize on the Coasts of *Spain*, with Orders to take all *Spanish* Ships by way of Reprizals, for two *Amsterdam* Ships taken by them on the Coast of *Portugal*, 'twould very much discredit the said *Esteven de Gamarre*, in that he could not during his Embassy prevent those Disorders: He said he would do it, and this Day Orders are issu'd out by the Assembly of *Holland*. I know a Ship of 22 Guns, belonging to *St. Sebastians*, which was taken near *Ostend*, has been condemn'd as Prize, and sold. The said *Sieur de Wit* told me, his Kinsman, the same he suspects on account of what your Majesty wrote me, came to him to desire him to procure him the Post of Receiver of *Holland*, which he refus'd him, and put another into it; he told him he did not serve him in it, because of the Fault he committed at *Dort*, when Don *Esteven de Gamarre* got the Magistrates to meet, and also because he knew he had employ'd the said *Esteven de Gamarre* to sollicite his Friends to give him their Votes for the Place he put in for, and he would have him know he would be against him in every thing he pretended to. I have understood from another hand, that a Person could not be more mortify'd than the *Sieur de Wit's* Kinsman, who is his Cousin German, was; in which the advice your Majesty gave him did not a little assist him; his Proceedings seem to me to be so sincere, that I'm satisfi'd, what he has often said to me, that he would engage himself entirely in your Majesty's Interests, is

very

very true, for he has done all that lay in his Power, at least as far as it appear'd to me, to make his Words good.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
May 11, 1663.

AT last I can send you the News that the Ratifications of the Treaty of the 27th of *April*, last Year, have been exchange'd; that is, I have receiv'd that of the States, for you know, 'tis a long time since, that to demonstrare my Affection to them, and my Sincerity, I caus'd mine to be deliver'd to the Ambassador *Boreel*; I now send you a Copy of the Writing *Lionne* sign'd by my Order, and gave the said *Boreel*, with Copies of all the Treaties I desir'd the States to guarant; and the said *Boreel*, at the same time, put into my Hands a like Writing, and the Copies of the Treaties which the said States also desir'd me to guarant.

Perhaps, before the Post goes, I may still send you the News, that I have receiv'd from the said *Boreel* a Writing from the States for the Guaranty of the Treaty for the Town of *Dunkirk*; and that I have given him mine for the Guaranty of their last Treaty with *England*, and that they made with *Spain*, for the Exchange of the Country of *Outremense*.

But I was surpriz'd at the Declaration *Boreel* made, that he had no Power to Guarant me at the same time my Treaty with *Sweden*, that with the Archduke, nor the late Prorogation of the Alliance of the *Rhine*, nor that of the Junction of the Duke of *Deuxponts*, which are on the same foot with those of *Dunkirk*, *England*, and the Country of *Outremense*; that is, they had not receiv'd their last Perfection before the signing of the Treaty of the 27th of *April*, 1662.

This want of Power in the said *Boreel*, has not, however, hindred my guaranting the said Treaties of *England*.

gland, and the Country of *Outremerse*; presupposing, on what you have already written me, that you will not, where you are, find any difficulty to procure speedy Orders to be sent the said *Boreel*, to guarant in like manner the said Treaties with *Sweden*, the Archduke; the late Prorogation of the Alliance of the *Rhine*, and the Junction of the Duke of *Deuxponts*, to which you are immediately to apply your self.

I was very glad to hear they had, with you, agreed to the Exchange of the Country of *Ravestein*; I could not hope that Affair would have been so soon issu'd, and there's nothing wanting to make my Satisfaction in it compleat, since I have succeeded in my Endeavours to preserve the Catholick Religion in *Ravestein*, with so much Advantage for the neighbouring Catholics; I have allotted 3000 Franks Pension to be deducted out of the Revenues of the Bishoprick of *Rechelle*, for the Subsistence of the Archbishop and Bishop, of whom one is to reside at *Harlem*, and the other at *Amsterdam*. I shall write to you another time more particularly on this Matter, that you may be better inform'd of it.

I doubt not after what you got Vice-Admiral *de Ruyter* to declare so a *propos* to the States, but you will find means to have the Affair of *Maliba* redress'd, if the *Sieur de Wit*, as I question not, keeps his Word with us, by beginning with making *Holland* alone to declare for the Restitution of the Estates of the Order; there being likelihood if that step were taken by the most considerable Province, the rest would follow her Example. I have not resolv'd to keep any Frigats at *Dunkirk*, only for Guard-ships on the Coast; that Expence seeming to me to be very superfluous. But if the Master of *de Ruyter's* Ship, who has serv'd as Lieutenant, is an extraordinary Man for Marine Affairs, and will settle with his Family at *Dunkirk*, where he was born, you may assure him, I will not leave him idle, but will give him the Command of one of my Ships, which is the Reward you write me the

the States give him Hopes of, after the long Services he has done them.

I have with Pleasure read the Memorial you sent me, of the most Illustrious Persons that are now in the State of the *United-Provinces*; when you make any Discovery of such like Men, excellent in their Profession, you may add them to the Memorial, and continue to inform me of them. I have caus'd an Order to be issu'd out to the great Master of the Artillery, to restore the two pieces of Cannon taken at *Concarneau*, to the Burgo-master of *Hasrlem*; and you may assure him 'twill be done, but that he must send for them, and that you will give him the necessary Warrants for those to carry, whom he shall send on that Errand, at soon as they come to your Hands.

Inquire under-hand, letting no Body yet know any thing of your meaning in it, who a certain *Italian* is, a *Genease* by Birth, who lives at *Amsterdam*, and takes on him to write News-Letters to *Venice*, writing and speaking very imprudently of the State of my Affairs, and my Designs; and if you discover any thing, give me Notice of it before you proceed further, to suppress the Insolence of this gallant Person. There's a certain Speech talk'd of here, said to be spoken to me by the Resident of *Sweden*, on the Affairs of *Poland*, which is printed with you, and can be nothing but a false Piece; endeavour to procure me a Copy of it, if the Information I have receiv'd be true.

Here follows the List of the Treaties of which the King Demands the Guaranty of the Lords the States.

Treaties which the King desires to be guaranted by the Lords the States-General of the *United-Provinces*, pursuant to the third Article of the Trea-

ty of Alliance, Friendship, Commerce and Marine Affairs, concluded between his Majesty's Commissioners, and the Ambassadors Extraordinary of the Lords the States, the 27th of *April*, 1662.

The two Treaties of *Querasque* in *Piedmont*, of the 6th of *April*, and 19th of *June*, 1631; concluded between the Emperor's Deputies, and the King's, concerning the Differences between the Dukes of *Savoy* and *Mantua*.

Treaty made with the Duke of *Savoy* for the depositing of *Pignerol* into the King's Hands for six Months, of the 19th of *October*, 1631.

Treaty for the Acquisition of the Propriety and Lordship of the Town of *Chancelier* in *Piedmont*, made at *Turin* the 5th of *July*, 1632.

The Treaty of *Peronne* of the 8th of *July*, 1641, for the Protection of the Prince of *Monaco*.

The Treaty of *Munster* of the 28th of *October*, 1648, with that of *Nurembourg*, for its Execution, of the 2d of *July*, 1650.

The Treaty of the *Pyrennees* made between *France* and *Spain*, the 7th of *September*, 1659.

The Treaty made at the *Hague*, the 21st of *June*, 1659, between *France*, *England*, and the States-General of the *United-Provinces*, for making a Peace between *Sweden* and *Denmark*.

The Treaty of *Copenhagen*, of the 21st of *May*, 1660, made between *Sweden* and *Denmark*, with the Mediation of *France*, *England*, and the said States.

The Treaty of *Oliva*, made between *Sweden*, the King and the Republick of *Poland*, and the Elector of *Brandenburg*, with the Mediation of *France*.

The Treaty of Peace between the Kingdom of *France*, and the Republick of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, of the 3d of *October*.

Treaty granted by the King to the Duke of *Lorraine*, for his Re-establishment in his Dominions, of the last of *February*, 1661.

Treaty

‘ Treaty of Alliance, Friendship and Commerce,
‘ made between *France* and *Sweden*, at *Fontainbleau*,
‘ the 15th of *October*, 1661.

‘ Treaty of Alliance made between the King and
‘ the Elector of *Treves*, at *Fontainbleau*, the 12th of
‘ *October*, 1661.

‘ Treaty of the Alliance of the *Rhine*, of the 15th
‘ of *August*, 1658, prorogu’d to the 13th of *August*,
‘ 1660, and of the Junction of the Duke of *Deuxponts*
‘ to it.

‘ Prorogation of the said Treaty of Alliance from
‘ the 15th of *August*, 1663, to the same Day of the
‘ Year 1667.

‘ Treaties made with the Archduke *Ferdinand* of
‘ *Inspruck*, for the Payment of three Millions due
‘ for *Alsace*, pursuant to the Treaty of *Munster*.

‘ The Treaty made with the King of *England*, for
‘ the Sale of *Dunkirk*.

Done at *Paris*, the 6th of *April*, 1663.

Signed, De Lomenie.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
May 10, 1663.

I Doubt not of your Majesty's having been inform'd,
by other Hands, of the Reports the *Spaniards* spread
in the Cities of *Holland*, of the Emperor's Marriage
with the *Infanta*: They say, the King of *Spain* yields
the *Low-Countries* to him, for two Reasons: One,
to keep a good Correspondence between the said Coun-
tries and the States; and the other, to preserve them,
by the Forces of *Germany* and the Emperor's Allies,
against your Majesty's Ambition, who has form'd
Designs to seize the whole; and that you will not
stop at the *Low-Countries* only, but your Ambition
being without Bounds, you would go on and conquer
these

these Provinces too, and deprive them of their Trade. This Discourse has no ill Effect in the Minds of Men of Honour, and the chief of the State; but they confound the People, the Merchants and Magistrates of the Towns farthest off, who have not Understanding enough to penetrate the Designs of such as artfully inculcate such Insinuations. I was not willing to speak first of it to Monsieur de Wit, to see how he would carry himself, being very well inform'd he heard of the Reports that were spread in the Cities of *Holland*.

The said Sieur de Wit demanded Audience of me Yesterday, and told me, Post-day approaching, he would communicate to me how industrious the *Spaniards* had been to insinuate up and down in the Cities, what an Advantage the States would receive by the Emperor's Marriage with the *Infanta*, and how safe it would be for their State to have their Neighbour, their good Friend, who had no intent to hurt them, either in their Trade, or their Pretensions; that the Archduke, his Brother, would Command in the *Low-Countries*; he added, that for his part, he had undeceiv'd the Cities that had given him this Information, and let them know they shou'd not hearken to such Rumours; that the Emperor and King of *Spain* were but one, that their Interests were common, and that this Marriage should be look'd upon only as a closer Union, by which the greatest Powers being join'd, this State should be more upon her Guard than hitherto she had been, for it was to be apprehended, Designs were forming against her at a distance and with Art. He said, they were fully convinc'd of it, and he was of Opinion I should go some Days hence to the Cities of *North Holland*, and talk with the Magistrates to the same Purpose, to confirm them in the Sentiments they ought to have for their Interests. I thank'd him for his Advice, which I shall always punctually follow, having Orders from your Majesty so to do without reserve. He told me afterwards, 'twas time

time to project something to prevent being surpriz'd; that a Partition seem'd best to him, to be made between your Majesty and the Province of *Holland*, which should be kept secret, he promising to answer for those of the Province of *Holland* who should be employ'd in it, and when the time came the Business would be done; For by shewing an Agreement sign'd between your Majesty and the Province of *Holland*, the latter would act as Sovereign, go thro' with it, and bring the other Provinces to do the same, as she did for the Assistance of the King of *Denmark* against *Sweden*, and for the Peace of *England* with *Cromwell*. I reply'd, he had seen, by your Majesty's Answer, how far your Majesty's Thoughts were from aggrandizing your self on the side of *Flanders*, that you look'd upon your self as possess'd of enough without desiring more, and that since I knew your Majesty's Intentions, I desir'd I might not enter on any such Matter, not knowing how your Majesty wou'd take it; that he might remember how earnestly your Majesty wish'd the Proposal made him by the Deputies of *Flanders* might succeed for the States Interest, and the Glory which would accrue to himself in particular by it, to have procur'd so great an Advantage to himself and his Masters; that I was sure your Majesty had not alter'd your Opinion. I observ'd, the more unwilling I seem'd to enter upon this Discourse, the more he press'd me to it. After having a long while excus'd my self, I told him, I would not for any thing in the World exceed my Orders. But if he would draw up any Project thereon, I would send it from him to your Majesty, who I doubted not would set a high value on his Opinion, and yield to his Advice, being so convinc'd as you are of his Affection for your Interests, of his Sincerity and great Capacity.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
May 10, 1663.

TIS true, the *Sieur Friquet* uses Instances with the States, and sets the *Spanish* Faction to work, to prevent the Success of the Exchange of *Ravestein*, alledging, 'tis a Dependant of the Empire, and the States could not lawfully acquire it without the Consent of the Emperor, and all the Orders of the Empire. But I made no Answer to all his Arguments, but what your Majesty order'd me in your Dispatches, that in Case of recovery, the Country the States should give the Duke of *Newburgh*, will answer for the said *Revestein*; and before the Baron de *Lerode* left the *Hague*, he assur'd Monsieur de *Wit*, he would do his utmost, that the Duke of *Newburgh* should bring the Emperor to a Compliance in it, which made them go farther, and the Division I wrote your Majesty of was agreed to, and had even been sign'd, if the Baron de *Lerode* had not demanded time to go and enquire into the Revenues of the Villages the States were to give. Your Majesty will see plainly, *Friquet* meddles with this Affair only to cross it. 'Tis now in the Hands of Monsieur de *Beverning*, it having relation to the Finances. He has promis'd me it shall succeed to your Majesty Satisfaction, and not only wou'd not answer *Friquet's* last Petition, but refus'd him the Audience he demanded, of which he complains aloud.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: May 16, 1663.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that Monsieur *Boreel* having made some difficulty to comprize in the general Guaranty the four following Treaties, to wit, The last that was made with *Sweden*, that with the Archduke, the Prorogation of the Alliance of the Princes of the *Rhine*, and the Junction of the Duke of *Deuxponts* to the said Alliance, alledging he has receiv'd no Orders from your Lordship for it, he's oblig'd to demand that a new Instrument be issu'd out, ordering him to pass the Guaranty of the said four Treaties, and that it be sent him forthwith. Done at the *Hague*, May 16, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
May 17, 1663;

UPON the Information your Majesty gave me of the *Sieur Boreel's* refusing to comprize the four following Treaties in the general Guaranty, that with *Sweden*, the Archduke, the Prorogation, and the Duke of *Deuxponts*, I yesterday presented a Memorial to the Assembly, by which I demanded that an Instrument be past, ordering the said *Sieur Boreel* to make no further Difficulty of it; I having spoke to Monsieur *de Wit* of it before, he reply'd, it would admit of no Dispute, and that the Assembly with all their Hearts would

would agree to it; but the said *Sieur Boreel* writing, the said Treaties had not been communicated to him, and it being necessary they should be examin'd here, they must be either given to the said *Sieur Boreel*, or sent to me, that the Assembly may pass the Act to give him Power to Guarant them.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
May 18, 1663.

BY one of your last Dispatches, I learnt the Reports the *Spaniards* spread up and down in the Cities of *Holland*, on the Marriage of the Emperor and the Infants, and the Cession of the *Netherlands* for her Portion, as also the Comments which are made upon it to my Disadvantage, to endeavour to perswade the People, the King my Father-in-Law would by this means prevent the Effects of my Ambition, by putting a strong Barrier between *France* and the States, by the Junction of the Emperor's Forces with theirs.

If the thing was true, as it certainly is not, the Archbishop of *Ambrun* assuring me positively there is no other Condition in the Contract, but what was in that of the late Empress *Mary*, the *United-Provinces* would have much more Ground and Reason to believe their Safety would be in Danger by the coming of the *Germans* into *Flanders*, and the Fear every one ought justly to be in, to see in an Instant the whole Power of the House of *Austria* united in one Person, as it was in the Time of *Charles* the Fifth, when it was so prejudicial to all other States. I therefore highly approve of your Journey into *North Holland*, and other Places, where you may shew the People the Falsity of such ill Impressions, and convince them of their true Interest, which lyes only in uniting closely with me their old and assur'd Friend, and always to mistrust reconcil'd Enemies, who only yielded up
that

that Sovereignty which they enjoy to them, by the Necessity my Arms reduc'd *Spain* to. In the mean while, I like very well your Conduct relating to the new Proposals this Incident gave the *Sieur de Wit* an opportunity to make you; I wait to see the Project which you say he's at work upon, before I tell you what Answer you shall make; refering you for the rest to my other Letters.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
May 24, 1663.

AS I was going to end my Visit to *Monfieur de Wit*, and take leave of him, he stop'd me to communicate the Project he had begun to me, which contains, that in case the Provinces of *Flanders* would throw off the *Spanish* Yoke, and set up a Republick, your Majesty and this State should, by Consent and by a Treaty, oblige themselves to defend it.

That if the King and Prince of *Spain* happen to die, and the Renunciation your Majesty has made by the Articles of Marriage be null, and your lawful Title be made appear, in such case your Majesty coming to the Frontiers with an Army, the States should order one to march on their side, and both should thence send Manifesto's into the great Cities and Capitals of the Provinces of *Flanders*, declaring, if they would set up such a Republick as the *Swiss* Cantons, your Majesty and the States are ready to assist them, and receive them into their Alliance, to shew the desire they have to procure the Peace, and preserve the Estates of the People of *Flanders*.

That if they refus'd, they should on both sides fall on them, and to prevent Quarrels among themselves agree upon a Partition; that that which was made with the late King was so just and equitable, and done with
so

so much Circumspection, the States would keep to it.

That for the Security of this Treaty he saw but one Expedient, and that is, your Majesty having declar'd your Pleasure herein, and sent the Necessary Powers to treat, he would talk to his particular Friends of the Province of *Holland*, as the Burgomasters and Pensio-naries of the Cities of *Amsterdam*, *Dort*, *Rotterdam*, *Haerlem*, *Delft* and *Alcmaer*, and dispose them to sign the Treaty with him in the Name of the Province of *Holland* with great Secrecy, and when the Time came the Province should declare she had made it, and desire the said Treaty to be executed. This, Sir, is the purport of the Project Monsieur *de Wit* communicated to me, telling me he could not give it me these ten or twelve Days yet, it not being as perfect as he intended to make it. He demanded my Opinion; I said there were very fine Thoughts in it, but I could not give him my Advice in an Affair which hitherto seem'd to me to be very far from your Majesty's Intentions, and therefore I would defer it, 'till he had finish'd his Project, to send it to your Majesty, and when I knew your Sentiments I would tell him mine. I then left him, without entring farther on this Matter; nevertheless, I thought it necessary to give your Majesty advice here-of before-hand, that you may have the more time to consider of it, and give me your Orders about it; I humbly entreat you to consider also the Weight of all the Affairs which offer at once, the Emperor's Proposal, the King of *Spain's*, and Monsieur *de Wit's*, to which I will add, that the Princess of *Orange* labours mightily to engage the Elector of *Brandenburgh* still more strongly for the House of *Austria*, and I am very well assur'd the Baron *de Bloemendael* acquaints her with every thing he proposes to your Majesty, he having Orders from his Master so to do, and to take her Advice.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 31, 1663.

I Have shewn the Declaration the *Sieur Trevor* has given for the King of *England*, which affirms the Precedence of your Majesty's Ministers before those of the Catholick King; they all agree, 'tis more advantageous for your Majesty than if the Act of Parliament was repeal'd, which forbids Matters of Ceremonies that might confirm the Right; but I must tell your Majesty, that this Precedent, join'd to a great Number of Examples, which History furnishes us else-where, makes all the World wonder at the Dispute *Don Esteven de Gamarre* has with me, and the more for that the King of *Spain* approves of it. If the thing stops there I ought not to hold my Tongue, lest, as I foresee it may happen, that your Majesty's Honour be lessen'd in this Country.

I have inform'd my self of the Example he alledges, of the Visit Monsieur *de Thou* paid him in the like Terms; 'tis true, *Esteven de Gamarre* was Ambassador at the *Hague* two Years before him, that they were both here during the War, and *Esteven de Gamarre* having been absent at his Government, and returning to the *Hague* when the Peace was made, and your Majesty's Marriage consummated, Monsieur *de Thou* receiv'd Orders to make him a Compliment thereon, so that under this Pretext he visited him first; but this Visit should not to be understood, and was not taken here, as any thing more than a Piece of extraordinary Civility your Majesty was willing to pay the King of *Spain* on the Renewal of Friendship, by a famous Treaty of Peace and Marriage, when each Party endeavour'd to out-do one another in Civility, wherein he who began and did most had the Advantage; and to infer from thence, that it establish'd the Right of the *Spanish* Ambassadors to pretend to the first Visit

K from

from your Majesty's Ministers, when they came last, would be to overturn the ancient Usage establish'd by an infinite Number of Examples on the like Occasions; and the said *Esteven de Gamarré* cannot have any other reason to ground his Claim upon, but that in this case he came back with new Credentials, on which he may pretend he began a new Embassy, which is not true. I am to advise your Majesty, that the *Sieur de Wit* complains of the *Baron de Lerode's* writing, two Days ago, that the Duke his Master cannot accept of the Exchange of *Ravestein* without the Emperor's Consent; and it appears, by *Friquet's* continual Solicitations, that he is very far from any such Disposition; But as the *Sieur de Wit* had nevertheless gone farther, and the said *Baron de Lerode* being order'd to obtain it at the Beginning of this Negotiation, this so sudden a Change gives occasion for thinking; and as it may oblige the States to take new Resolutions, which may prevent this Affair being adjust'd, I thought fit to engage *Monsieur de Wit* to get *Monsieur de Beverning*, Great Treasurer, to be one of the Deputies to Examine the Division of the Country of *Outremeuse*; and at the same time I wrote to the *Baron de Lerode*, by the Duke of *Newburgh's* Agent here, that he should meet the said *Beverning* at *Maastricht* to examine the Revenues of the Villages offer'd, that all Disputes on the States side might be made up in Presence of him, who has the Direction of these things; after which there is nothing to be done, but to put an End to the Emperor's Opposition, which will lye on the Duke of *Newburgh*.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 31, 1663.

YOUR Majesty has, by my former Dispatch, seen Monsieur *de Wit*'s Sentiments on the present Dispute about the Affairs of the *Low-Countries*: You will more fully understand them by the Memorial he put into my Hands this Day, which I now send you; I receiv'd it in the same manner as I had done his Discourses on that Subject; but he having talk'd to me two Days before upon it, and would have set forth the Advantage of this first Partition of the ten Provinces, which was made on the Declaration of War, and is the same he now proposes, I answer'd him so, that without letting him see I was for or against his Proposal, he might, by my Coldness at his Discourse, perceive I did not think it for your Majesty's Interest: And I believe 'twas upon that he reduc'd his Proposal to what is couch'd in this Memorial. I shall act only conformably to the Orders your Majesty shall do me Favour to send me.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: May 31, 1663.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, to answer the last Resolution taken by your Lordships on the Memorial he presented, relating to the four Treaties the King his Master requires to be compriz'd in the general Guaranty, ought to acquaint your Lordships he is inform'd by his last Dispatches, of the 25th of this Month, that

as to these four Treaties, the *Sieur Boreel*, Ambassador from this State in *France*, acknowledg'd three had been communicated to him a long time ago, and that he demanded only to see that relating to the Archduke of *Inspruck*, which was to be put into his Hands the 26th, together with the Copy of three others, to be sent to your Lordships: And as the Ambassador Extraordinary doubts not but it will be punctually done, so he promises himself you will on your Parts do all that's possible to be done, for the speedy determinating this Affair, which is to seal the Union between *France* and this State. The said Ambassador Extraordinary represents also to your Lordships, that at the same time as you complain here of the Pyracies of *Laurence David*, he has Orders from the King his Master to let you know, the said *Laurence* had a Permission two Years ago to fit out a Merchant Ship with a Letter of Mark, to go to *America* on Account of the *Sieur Fouquet*, that he return'd with his Ship lately to *Havre de Grace*, that during his Voyage he took several Prizes, *Turks*, *Moors*, and other Enemies of *France*, and instead of the said *Laurence David's* entering his Ship in the Port of *Havre de Grace*, and making his Declaration at the Admiralty Bar of his Return from his Voyage, he kept out in the *Offing*, left his said Ship, and retir'd to some Port of the Province of *Holland*, with a great deal of Merchandize of great Value arising from the said Prizes, to defraud his Majesty and his Lord High Admiral of their Dues, and at the same time cheat the *Sieur Fouquet* and others concern'd with him in equipping the said Ship, of the best part of what belong'd to them.

So that his Majesty taking the said *Laurence David's* Flight for a Defection, and being concern'd to know what pass'd in the Course of the said Voyage, as done with his Colours, and by Virtue of his Admiral's Commission, the said Ambassador Extraordinary demands of your Lordships, that the said *Laurence David*,

David, who has been already arrested by your Orders at *Dordrecht*, be kept in good and safe Custody; and Search be made for the said Merchandizes taken out of the said Ship, that they may be deliver'd to whom they belong; which the said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes your Lordships will do the more readily, because, besides the Pleasure you will do his Majesty in it, you will also give him certain means to make out the Pyracies you complain of, and to do you justice when they are made out, and that you will thereon come to a final Resolution, that he may give his Majesty an Account of it by this Day's Post. Done at the *Hague* the thirty first of *May*, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estades to the King:
June 14, 1663.

AS to the Bishop of *Munster*, they don't here much matter his Resolution to make himself Master of *Borkelo* by Force, Monsieur *de Wit* said so to me. But on my representing to him, that the Bishop had reason to complain, that in six Months time, he having so long ago made his Demands of the States, he has not been able to get an Answer; and in fine, that 'twas but just, even for the Honour of your Majesty's Recommendation, that some Resolution should be taken thereon, and ways thought of to end this Difference amicably; the said *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, 'twas the Bishop's Fault in not sending any Person to the States of *Guelderland*, with whom he was to dispute his Right, as 'twas agreed upon.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :

June 21, 1663.

I Communicated the Memorial I receiv'd from your Majesty to Monsieur *de Wit*, who appear'd to me to be sensibly touch'd with the obliging Terms, so full of Confidence, with which your Majesty explains your self on his Account, and the Assurance you give him of your Protection; and I believe this honourable way of Dealing with him, confirms him very much in his present Sentiments, to contribute whatever lyes in him for your Majesty's Glory, and the Advancement of your Affairs. On the Instances you order'd me to use with respect to *Cambray*, I must inform your Majesty, that as in the propos'd Project, 'tis indisputably in your Division, because 'tis without the Line which bounds the Frontier of the States, so I believ'd the Cypher was mistaken, and instead of that Place, your Majesty meant *Ghent*, as being that which is more advanc'd in the Country that is to remain to you, and on Rivers which make the Separation, so that I have on that Subject made use of all your Majesty wrote me on *Cambray*; and added further, the Reasons which may be taken from the Situation of the Country, of which I have a particular Knowledge. I found Monsieur *de Wit* was fully of Opinion, that Place was the principal Security of their Frontier and Division, and there being different Minds to be manag'd, to get this Design approv'd of, the preceding Proposals should appear plausible and advantageous, and prove your Majesty's fair dealing to remove Diffidence, which is easily begot from the Neighbourhood of a powerful Prince. That this Place being too great, contiguous with their Country, and on the Line which might be their Boundary, would infallibly produce this Effect, if 'twere demanded. It being an Affair which will have a long Discussion, I shall observe all the proper

proper times for the success of it, and make use of all the means I can think of in order to it. In the mean while, I shall have time to wait for your Majesty's Commands, so that if I was my self mistaken, and you meant the reserving some other Place besides *Cambray* and *Ghent*, I may demand it by giving up the latter.

I saw at first 'twould be very advantageous to add *Mecklin* to your Majesty's Division, because it would give you a broad Entrance into that of the States, if there should ever happen a Quarrel between your Majesty and them. Having mention'd it to Monsieur *de Wit*, I found he knew very well the Consequence of it, for he gave me to understand, 'twas the only one he could oppose, it being their Frontier on *Brussels* side, and that as for the Country about it they would join it to *Maestricht*, and then make a Line from *Ostend* to their State: So that I did not think it proper to push that Matter farther, and said what I did, only as from my self by way of Conversation. I must sincerely own to your Majesty my Diffidence of the Event, and my Fear that it being necessarily to be communicated to five or seven Persons of the Province of *Holland*, the Secret may not be kept; on which however the whole Affair depends. I propos'd this Difficulty to the *Sieur de Wit*, who assuring me of his good Intentions, and the great Caution he would take herein, concluded we must run that Risk.

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: June 22, 1663.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, we receiv'd the Letter you wrote the 24th of the last Month, by which you entreat us to cause the Persons, Ship and Goods of those who are found

Accomplices in the Piracies, a Ship commanded by *Hubrecht Hugo*, a Native of the City of *Dordrecht* committed in the *Red Sea*, be arrested by Authority; he having, as you have been inform'd, pirated under the different Colours of several Kings and States of *Europe*. To which we answer, that this Affair being the same with that of Captain *Laurence David*, of which the Count *D'Estrades*, our Ambassador, has already spoken to you from us, and us'd Instances that the Body of the said *David* be surrender'd, as having nam'd his Ship under a Commission, that he may give an account to our Admiralties of the Prizes he has taken in his Voyage, and that Justice may order what shall in reason belong to him; we promise our selves, from your Equity and Affection, that you will forthwith deliver up the Person of the said *Laurence David*. In the mean while, we have on our side granted your Request, by arresting the said *Hugo*, and the seizing the Ship, and all that could be found of the Effects of the Concern'd in this Voyage; and we refer our selves to what our Ambassador shall more particularly represent to you on this Matter. Praying God that he will have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Paris*, *June 22, 1663*.

Your good Friend and Confederates,

De Lionne.

LOUIS.

The Superscription was,

*To our most dear great Frinds, Allies and Confederates,
the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries.*

Memo.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, June 25, 1663.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, finds himself oblig'd to bear to your Lordships the Complaints of several Masters of Ships of Calais, Diep, St. Valery, and elsewhere, who being arriv'd at Rotterdam, before the Edict touching the Duty of fifty Sols a Ton was publish'd there, might pretend to the same Exemption the Admiralty of Amsterdam granted to Ships which arriv'd there before the said Publication, which in effect can only have regard to what's to come; and nevertheless, they find the Court of Rotterdam would oblige them to pay more than the Size and Tonnage of their Ships are liable for; to discharge which they offer to comply with your Lordships Edicts and Ordonnances, and this Trouble given them being directly contrary to your Lordships Intentions, and even the Contents of the said Edicts, the said Ambassador Extraordinary earnestly desires you will be pleas'd to write to the Court of Admiralty at Rotterdam, to give Orders that your Edicts be executed according to their Form and Tenor, and be not exceeded to the prejudice of the Subjects of the King his Master, and that without delay, that the said Ships may not be retarded in their Voyage. Given at the Hague, June 25, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:

June 26, 1663.

SINCE my last Dispatch, and almost as soon as 'twas gone, I perceiv'd, in reading the Memorial your Majesty sent me on Monsieur de Wit's Project over again, that in the Place where mention is made of *Cambray*, these Words were omitted in the decyphering, (on the first Expedient) which are essential to inform me your Majesty does not demand this Place to cover your Frontier, but in Case the Provinces accept of the Proposal to form themselves into Catholick Cantons, and not in case the Partition be executed as I thought; because this Reservation was declar'd in the Narrative of the second Expedient which concerns the Partition, where I believ'd the name of that City was mistaken, and that your Majesty intended to reserve some other Place, and not *Cambray*. To repair this Fault, I suppose I receiv'd by the last Express a Duplicate of the said Memorial with an Addition, in which you order'd me to acquaint Monsieur de Wit with your Majesty's Intentions concerning *Cambray*, in the manner you had prescrib'd. me, and in the civil and obliging Terms your Majesty makes use of; by shewing him, at the same time that you forego the Demand of *Ghent*, you would be indebted for the Acquisition of that Place, which you desire only for the Security of your Frontier, to none but himself. Monsieur de Wit heard all I said to him from your Majesty on this Subject with Pleasure, and answer'd, he saw no difficulty in this Place's remaining to your Majesty in the Case propos'd, and that he would do his utmost and with Affection to have it so. But he, at the same time, said, he hop'd your Majesty would also consent that *Ostend* should remain to the States in the like Case; that in the State he understood the Affairs of *Spain* now were, there was no time to be lost, and that a Treaty

Treaty should be forthwith concluded on the Project, demanding if I had receiv'd any Powers thereon; I reply'd, I expected them every Day. Your Majesty is to regulate the time, and send them to me when you think fit. To go to Work for the Execution of the Project, Monsieur de Wit is about taking a Journey in the Province of *Holland*, to gain the Cities of *Dort*, *Rotterdam*, *Leyden*, *Delft*, *Haarlem* and *Amsterdam*; and to do it with the more secrecie, he intends to go to a House between the latter and *Vtrecht*, under Pretence of visiting the *Sieur de Groot*, his Uncle, who is the Owner of it, and there those of his Friends whose Assistance he designs to use in this Affair are to rendezvous. They will so order it, that Deputies depending on him shall be chosen for the next Assembly, the 10th of *July*, and such as he can dispose for your Majesty's Interests. He desir'd I wou'd at the same time visit *North Holland*, where my Regiment receives its Pay, pretending to sollicite my Affairs with the Magistrates; but in effect, to reconcile the Minds of the People for your Majesty's Service, and secure Friends, in general Terms, such as I have a long time ago made there, to assist me as occasion shall require: I begin my Journey with *Alkmaar*, on purpose to end it at *Amsterdam*, where I am to meet Monsieur de Wit, and know of him in what Disposition as to this design he left his Friends. I intend to set out to Morrow Morning.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 June 29, 1663.

BY this Letter I return a particular Answer to your private Letter of the 21st Instant. I thought I had explain'd my self clearly enough in my Memorial of the 15th of *June*; which was an Answer to the *Sieur de Wit's*, Article by Article, and left no room for the

the Mistake that has happen'd relating to the Town of *Cambray*; and I am certain, as soon as you see the thing stated again, you will presently find what I aim'd at. The *Sieur de Wit* made two Proposals to me, and I accepted of both without any Alteration.

The first was, that we should do our utmost to oblige the *Netherlands*, which are now under the Dominions of *Spain*, to resolve to erect themselves into a Free and Independant Republick, ally'd like Catholick Cantons with the States of *Holland*, which I should protect by a close Alliance; and if that Design can be executed, I should be contented for ever, notwithstanding any Case that should happen, or might afterwards happen.

I therefore, as I have said in the first place, accepted of this Proposal, adding only, that I wish'd, the better to cover my Frontier, I could have the Town of *Cambray*, for which I wou'd be oblig'd to the said *Sieur de Wit*; and if that cou'd not be, I would at present desist, not regarding so much to aggrandize my-self in this Affair, as to weaken the *Spaniards*, and put it out of their Power ever to hurt me or my Successors.

The second Proposal was, if it should be found impossible to execute this Project, as the said *Sieur de Wit* has very well foreseen it may happen, I have still accepted of this second Proposal on the same Terms, the said *Sieur de Wit* thought fitting and just for each, without any Restitution or Alteration imaginable, very far from pretending to such considerable Places as *Ghent*, or *Mechlin*, part of the Division that is to fall to the States Share.

We must now endeavour to recover what Ground we may have lost by this Mistake, for I am afraid it may have an ill effect in the Mind of the said *Sieur de Wit*; and it seems to me, the best way will be to let him see the Original of my first Dispatch, and own to him, that having taken that to relate to the second Proposal which I pretend to, only in case of the first, you thought there was an Error in the Cypher, and that

that the Transcriber, instead of *Ghent*, had put *Cambray*; but the truth was, I had not once had *Ghent* in my Thoughts, and what you said to him also of *Mechlin*, was only the Effect of your zeal to procure me the more Advantage. The only Trouble I shall have, that being adjusted, is the communicating the whole Project to six or seven Persons, as you write me is necessary, for I'm assur'd some Body has already on meer Suspicion inform'd *Gamarre* of it, who doubtless has given Advice of it to the King, his Master. I grant, 'tis in some sort necessary the principal Persons of the State should be acquainted with my good Intentions, my Sincerity, and Disinterest, that they may not fall into the Snare the said *Gamarre* has laid for them, in the pretended League of the seventeen Provinces. But in my Opinion, the *Sieur de Wit* might take the thing on himself, and instead of discovering all the Project to them, only tell them, I have assur'd him, that happen what will, they shall always find me ready to do whatever they can desire, or else say nothing of it to them, unless there's more danger of *Gamarre's* succeeding in his Negotiation; nevertheless, I refer my self entirely to what the said *Sieur de Wit* shall think most proper.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
 July 5, 1663.

I Receiv'd the Dispatches your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the 29th past, in this City. Your Majesty will see, by my last Dispatch, 'twas not long before I took your last Memorial right, and gave you an Account how that Matter was adjusted as you would have it. I can assure your Majesty, that notwithstanding this Mistake, *Monsieur de Wit* has not receiv'd any Diffidence; on the contrary, I found him ready to use all manner of Endeavours to let one of those

those Places fall to your Majesty's Share, in case it could be done without giving Umbrage to the State; but he had not time to set about it, I having undeceiv'd him the next Day. I came to *Amsterdam* the Day we agreed on, after I had happily perform'd what he desir'd of me; he express'd himself to be mighty well pleas'd with the Deputies the Cities of *North Holland* had nam'd for this Assembly, and pray'd me to inform your Majesty of what he has himself done in this Affair; he has been at *Dort, Rotterdam, Haarlem, Delft, Leyden* and *Amsterdam*. He discours'd his most trusty Friends in the Magistracy of those Cities, and endeavour'd to intimidate them on the great Preparations the *Turks* made to invade the Hereditary Countries, that their Progress was almost infallible thro' the low Estate of the House of *Austria*, and the little Hopes there were of the King of *Spain's* Life, considering his Infirmities, which descended to his Son, who who was not likely to live a long time.

That your Majesty being in Peace with the Grand Signior, wou'd not break with him to oppose the *Turks*; and he cou'd not but be apprehensive, that in a little while their Country wou'd have a barbarous Nation for their Borderers, whose Power was so great, their State would not be able to resist it.

That it had come into his Thoughts, if your Majesty cou'd be engag'd in a particular League with the Province of *Holland*, 'twould be a great security for them: But he saw great difficulty to bring it about, but your Majesty being in Peace, and seeming to be so moderate, as not to desire any more than belong'd to you, without taking hold of any Advantages to aggrandize your self at your Neighbours Expence, he knew not how the matter could be enter'd upon with you.

He talk'd thus to keep them off from his Design, the better to find out their Sentiments by their Answer, and to open himself more to those whom he found dispos'd for the great Affair. In effect, he saw their
Opinions

Opinions were very various; *Dort* declar'd, that all Means were to be us'd to engage your Majesty in a League; *Rotterdam* did the same; *Leyden Delft*, and *Haerlem* reply'd, they ought to think upon it, and not engage too far; *Amsterdam* consented to the League. Monsieur *de Wu* finding them in this Disposition, appointed a Meeting at a House near *Utrecht*, which belongs to a Relation of his, and gave them two Days to think of the Proposal he had made them. They all came to the Place, where after several Arguments *pro* and *con*, they follow'd Monsieur *de Wu*'s Opinion, and agreed he should speak to me. To which he reply'd, 'twas to no Purpose, that I was a reserv'd Man, that I would demand time to write to your Majesty, and 'twould be discovering their Weakness, to shew they were afraid; that he thought 'twould be better to see if they could penetrate by me your Majesty's Designs on *Flanders*, in case the King of *Spain* and the Prince dy'd; and if they could get me to negotiate with your Majesty to let a Republick be form'd, or to divide the Country by Consent, either of which would be very advantageous for the States. And after that, they might more safely enter into this League against the *Turks*, but he did not know how you would take it; they told him what he had to do; he reply'd, 'twas dangerous dealing with a great King. That when he had made an Agreement, perhaps they would disown him; and unless he had a secret Power from them, he would not venture to speak to me. They promis'd to give it him, but Monsieur *de Wu* seem'd still more cold, and told them, he was not yet resolv'd to proceed in it, and that the Consequences of such an Affair should be better thought of first. Such is the State of things at present, which certainly could not go better than they have hitherto done. As to the manner of the Treaty, I told him, he seem'd now to be Master of it, having secret Power from the Burgomasters and Pensionaries of the Cities, and being himself Keeper of the Seals, and Pensionary of *Holland*, and the Register Counter-signing,

signing, it would do without any other Persons Hand; as it happen'd when the Province of *Holland* resolv'd to assist the King of *Denmark*, and did not declare it to the other Provinces, 'till a long time after she had made the Treaty with the King of *Denmark*. The Peace with *Cromwell* was made after the same manner. 'Twas a whole Day before he could resolve to take on himself the sole Signing of the Treaty, but this Morning he resolv'd to do it, and agreed 'twas the only and the most safe Means to keep the Affair secret.

Your Majesty may depend upon it, that I do not more passionately desire your Greatness and Advantage, than Monsieur *de Wit* seems to do; he carries himself towards me with the utmost Confidence, and I should reckon my self very happy, if it could produce any good effect for your Majesty's Service.

The said *Sieur de Wit* ask'd me again, if I had not receiv'd my Powers to treat; I told him that should not stop the Affair, and that your Majesty would send them to me in due time.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
July 6, 1663.

I Saw, by your private Letter of the 26th past, that you had your self perceiv'd the Mistake of *Ghent*, for *Cambray*, and how the thing was presently adjusted with the *Sieur de Wit*.

You may now assure him, that the States consenting to my having *Cambray*, in case the first Proposal takes, I will also consent they have *Ostend*, in supposition they will make no Difficulty to grant all I may demand relating to the Estates belonging to the Church, and the Exercise of the Catholick Religion in those Places. Further, the Affairs of *Spain* are not so urgent as Monsieur *de Wit* thought, for the Prince of *Spain* is well of his Fever, and the King has been recover'd
these

these six Weeks, so that he's now as healthy as formerly; however, as I am entirely sincere in this Affair, I would not have the *Sieur de Wit* think I am at a stand when he goes so fast, and I shall be always ready to send you all the Powers of which you shall have Occasion; all my concern now is, that the Thing being to be communicated so early to so many People; 'twill be impossible to keep it as secret as we ought; and referring you for other Matters to my other Letter, &c.

From the Count D'Estades to the King:
 July 12, 1663.

I Return'd to the *Hague* the 5th of this Month, and Monsieur de *Wit* a few Days after me; he assures me, he left all his People confirm'd in the Fear he found 'em in of the *Turk's* Power, and that the farther this Affair seem'd off of that we treat about, the more it would be in his Power to keep it secret, and to hide his real Thoughts from them, since to effect his Purpose he made use of the Opportunity themselves had put into his Hands, that 'twas the only way to prevent all Mistrust; he now excuses himself for speaking to me thereon, on purpose to forward the Matter during the Session of the States of *Holland* which began yesterday, and that he might with the more dexterity carry on his Negotiation to the End he proposes. He knows the People he has to do with, and 'tis but just he should be left to manage himself with them as he thinks proper.

He declar'd, that as to the Affair of Religion there could be no difficulty, and that your Majesty might expect the same Terms for *Ostend*, which had been granted by the Treaty that was made on the Declaration of the War, for the Catholick Towns which were to fall to the States share; and told me again, as

to *Cambrai*, what your Majesty will have already seen in my former Dispatches.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
July 12, 1663.

THE Baron *de Lerode* has had a Conference with Monsieur *de Wit* on his Affairs, in which they both agreed on the Exchange; but the Elector of *Brandenburgh* opposing it for his Interest in *Ravestein*, as a part of the Estate of the House of *Newburgh*, which might fall to him, if the Duke dy'd without Children, his Agent was answer'd, the Villages given in exchange for *Ravestein* standing instead of it, the Elector would have the same Right to them; nevertheless, he waits for more precise Orders from his Master thereon. In the mean time, the Baron *de Lerode* undertakes to get the Emperor's Consent, of which so much ado was made at the Beginning of the Treaty, and sufficient Powers from his Master to terminate it; and Monsieur *de Beverning* not being yet return'd from the Country of *Outremanse*, whither he went by the States Order, to enquire into the Worth of the said Villages, the said Powers and the Elector's Resolution are only now wanting, and one may in a few Days hope to see the Conclusion of this Affair, if the Emperor, the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and the Duke of *Newburgh* start no more Difficulties.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
Hague, July 19, 1663.

I Had not time by the last Post to acquaint your Majesty, that the *Spanish* Ambassador having as I suppose receiv'd Orders to visit me, and not being willing

willing to submit to an Action of Ceremony, after he had for six Months feeborn it, would have disguis'd it, and given it the Face of a meer Civility from himself, and to that end he got a Person belonging to my Chapel to tell me, that he would the same Day come and dine with me, and that he desir'd him to let me know it; I reply'd, I should receive the Honour he intended me with great Pleasure, but that he ought first to pay me the Visit of Obligation he ow'd me, in all its Forms, and send to me first to demand Audience, which he did that Afternoon, as I have written your Majesty.

The next Day I paid him my Visit, which past in Matters of Complement, that are us'd on these Occasions; two Days after I went to dine with him, where your Majesty's Health was celebrated according to the Custom of the Country, and I did not suffer myself to be out-done in Civility, in that of the King his Master.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
July 10, 1663.

I Receiv'd, with your Majesty's Dispatch of the 13th of this Month, the Power necessary for me to treat with Monsieur de Wit on the Affair I have had the Honour to give you an Account of, and I shall make use of it, when the Time comes, in the manner and with all the Caution your Majesty orders me. He has discover'd it to five or six of the principal Persons of the Cities of this Province, in whom he could trust most, and endeavours to bring over others by round-about Ways, the better to conceal his Design, before he thinks proper to break it to them; and to that Purpose being urg'd to discourse me upon it, he at last promis'd them he would, and yesterday came to visit me; he agreed with me, he should reply, he found

me mighty Cold as to this new League, and that he was afraid, unless ways could be found out to interest your Majesty otherwise, and to demonstrate what Advantage it may be to you in Things that are for your Convenience, 'twould be difficult to engage you to protect them against the *Turks*; for that knowing he was the only Prince they could have recourse to, he would be sure to make the most of his Protection to gain other ends thereby, but that they would try what would come of it. Such is the present State of this Affair, we must let it take its Course, and expect the Issue from the Address and Management of the said *Sieur de Wit*.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 July 20, 1663.

YOU may tell the *Sieur de Wit* plainly, as to the Treaty with *England*, that the *English* have desir'd a Renewal of that I made some Years ago with *Cromwell*; the King of *Great Britain* not thinking it becoming his Dignity to have no other Treaty with me, but one made with the Usurper of his Crown, which they are oblig'd to mention on all Occasions; but you may assure the said *Sieur de Wit* from me, that he need not be under any the least Apprehension, that any thing whatsoever shall be done against the Interest of the States General. I have besides another Reason which obliges me to hearken to it, and that is, there's a certain *Irishman* lately arriv'd at *London* from *Madrid*, who has several Proposals in charge to engage the King of *England* in a very close Union with *Spain*, to the Prejudice even of his Brother-in-Law, the King of *Portugal*; and the said *Sieur de Wit* will allow, that we ought in Prudence to endeavour to ward off that Blow.

You

You know your Son, and what he is capable of, better than I can. I will only tell you 'tis dangerous to trust a Secret with young People, especially in important Affairs, and without any Necessity; wherefore they should be sounder and try'd first by little and indifferent Secrets, before they are ever trusted with greater.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
July 26, 1663.

I Made an Excuse to visit Monsieur *de Wit* on other Affairs, to find out what he knew, and penetrate his Intentions as to all his Proposals. I found him in as good Temper as I could wish, and before I said a Word of it to him, he made the first Overture to me, and confest the Artifices of *Spain* were great on this Occasion; and carry'd on by all manner of ways; that even some of his Friends began thereon to grow cold in this Matter, and to make Reflections upon it, which begat a Fear in them of a new Engagement with your Majesty; that the chief of 'em had been with him to represent to him, they were apprehensive of being engag'd in a War with *Spain*, which was not their Business, because it might happen that your Majesty might immediately after this new League endeavour to break with the *Spaniards*, there being but too many Pretexs for it, and in such case 'twould be more for their Advantage to keep to the Conditions of the late Treaty, 'han to venture on an infallible War by a new One; he recover'd them out of their Fright, by giving them to understand that ought not to disquiet them, that he would take care to have the Treaty so drawn, that the State should not be in a worse Condition, nor the Peace she enjoy'd be disturb'd, unless 'twas for Advantages which would augment its Strength, as the propos'd League or Partition would do; that he

thought it convenient to let them rest upon it a few Days, without urging the Matter farther; for fear of raising Suspicion in them; and that he would take his Time so well, as he doubted not of succeeding in this Negotiation; that if your Majesty would comply a little as to the Fright, 'twould be a great Means to get over the most difficult Things in this Treaty. I took him short in this last Proposition, refusing to undertake to use any Instances in it, referring it to the Sollicitations of the *Sieur Bareel*; your Majesty will reflect thereon, and be pleas'd to believe, I mention it only, because I would omit nothing that may be for the good of your Service. I shall wait with Patience the Success of this Project; and as it depends on the Management of a great many different Opinions, I think the Time must be left to *Monsieur de Wit's* Address and Conduct, and that one may hope for every thing from the good Disposition he seems to be in for your Majesty's Interests. The Secret is hitherto well kept; and that's a great Sign of his carrying himself with great Wariness.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: August 1, 1663.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, Represents to your Lordships, that one *Peter Dapuy*, Master of a Vessel belonging to *Diepe*, Complains, that having unladen some Merchandises at the Port of *Rotterdam*, and landed some Passengers, his Ship was rated at 23 Tuns, for the Duty call'd a Crown a Tun, tho' she carry'd but 16 Tuns according to her Gage at *Diepe*; and notwithstanding all he could alledge, he was oblig'd to pay for 23 Tuns, and one Crown over for Gage: The

said

' said Ambassador Extraordinary has Orders to repre-
 ' sent to your Lordships, that the like Complaints
 ' have been already made in *France* of such Abuses
 ' and Exactions committed in your Lordships Ports for
 ' the Receipt of Duty. And you may remember 'twas
 ' but a Month ago several Masters of Vessels belong-
 ' ing to *Calais*, *Honfleur*, and other Parts, demanded
 ' Justice of you; so that 'tis your Lordships Interest;
 ' and for the Justice of your Government, to have the
 ' like Abuses remedy'd, which the said Ambassador
 ' Extraordinary hopes for from your Prudence and
 ' Equity. Done at the *Hague* the first of *August*,
 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
 August 2, 1663.

I N answer to what your Majesty signify'd to me in
 one of your Letters of the 27th of the last Month,
 that you could not very well comprehend what Reason
 Monsieur de Wit had to make use of the fear of the
Turks, to gain the End he propos'd in our Negotia-
 tion; I am to tell your Majesty what I think I said in
 my former Dispatches, that his Design in doing it, was
 only because when he took his Journey into the Pro-
 vince of *Holland*, he found Mens Minds alarm'd with
 the Rumours of that War, and then, as an Affair a
 great way off, and proper to conceal his real Intention,
 he took occasion as if it was by Chance only to make
 Proposals nearer his true Design, to fathom the good
 or ill Dispositions of the Cities: Where having had
 an opportunity to observe those in whom he might
 confide, to them he confided the Secret of our
 Project; so that now there's no more mention of
 the fright of the *Turks*, there being no more oc-
 casion of it. In a Conference I have had with him,

since the receipt of your last Dispatch, he shew'd me that the Intrigues of the *Spaniards* on the propos'd League continues, that *Gamarre* presses to have it treated of; that he has sent *Richard* several times to him, since his return from the Cities he visited about this matter, to assure him they were all dispos'd to it, and to have a particular Audience of him to treat of the Business to the purpose. The said *Sieur de Wis* has avoided entering into any Discourse with *Richard* upon it, and has put off the Audience 'till after the Assembly breaks up, to make them the more off it, their Minds being more difficult to be manag'd when they are separated; hoping he shall not afterwards want Means to rid himself of all the Sollicitations and Instances that shall be us'd with him on this Subject. But at the same time that he makes use of all his Address, he could not but inform me these Offers shook abundance of People, and render'd our Negotiation more difficult; that it has been represented to him, even by some of his most assiduous Friends to whom he had communicated it, that 'twas dangerous to demand a Power of the Cities to treat of this new League, because they would know the Contents, and this was of such a Nature it could not be told; that when the Province of *Holland* treated singly, and without the Participation of the other Provinces, with *England* and *Denmark*, and a Power was granted some particular Persons to agree on the Conditions of the said Treaty, there was an open War between both States, which shew'd the necessity of treating, and 'twas of considerable Advantage to treat secretly then. But nothing now appear'd at present between the two Courts, which might engage the Cities to do any thing more than they were oblig'd to do by the last Treaty; so that they thought a more favourable Opportunity should be waited for, to give some colour of Reason to the Cities for this League, or some News found out to bring over such as seem now not to be dispos'd to do it. However, notwithstanding all these Difficulties alledg'd,

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Monfieur *de Wit* is not discourag'd in the Affair, he continues resolv'd to push it, and does not despair of gaining his Point; but it must be done with time, and when *Gamarre's* Instances have gone as far as they can, and are become uselefs. I answer'd, making no shew at all of being surpriz'd, that the whole Project being his Work, and having been suggested to him by his zeal for the aggrandizing of the *United-Provinces* and your Majesty's Interests, I could assure him you would not be troubled to hear, by the Obstacles which were met with, that it could not succeed; that you was so much concern'd for his particular Danger, that if you thought he ran any Risk, you would dissuade him from it; and that I should patiently wait for the Conjunctions his Friends thought necessary, and all other Expedients he should think fit to make use of in the Prosecution of this Design, in case he thought proper to push it further. He persists in assuring me of his Sincerity on this Occasion, and his Hopes that all these Difficulties will not hurt the Negotiation. This is the State Affairs are now in, and I despair of 'em as little as Monfieur *de Wit*, because I am convinc'd I act fairly in it, and 'tis common in popular Governments for such Crosses to happen in the most important Affairs, and for Patience and Address to surmount them.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
August 9, 1663.

THE Difficulties your Majesty will have observ'd, in my last Dispatch, to have arriv'd on account of the Project, are since augmented, and Monfieur *de Wit* informs me, his Friends in the City of *Amsterdam*, who at first gave into it, have represented to him, that by the Partition propos'd by the second Proposition of the said Project, *Antwerp* becoming Part of the Sovereignty

verieignty of the Lords the States, that City would draw away all the Trade, and ruin that of *Amsterdam*; that they could not engage in an Affair which would be so much against their Interest; that 'twas for that Reason, as might be remembred, that during the War, Prince *Henry of Orange* having all his Life time a violent Passion to get that Place, and several times form'd Designs to attack it, it had been always hinder'd by the great Interest that City always had in the State; that not to be seen to have any Engagement with me about this Affair, he had nothing to say against these Reasons, which he confess'd to me were so much the stronger, by how much they were grounded on the Interest of a City, which by its greatness sometimes was Mistress of the Resolutions of the Province, and afterwards of those of the State; that he thought of changing the Partition, and to comprize the City of *Antwerp* in your Majesty's, but the Proposal would be dangerous, and the Provinces would never Consent to it, because your Majesty would be then seated in the middle of their Country; that he must find out some new Expedient, and did not despair of succeeding in it; that if the worst came to the worst, the Proposal to oblige the ten Provinces to erect themselves into a Republick must be stood by, reserving those Places that are for your Majesty's Convenience, and that of the Lords the States, and that the means of doing it would be easie, the King of *Spain* and his Son hapring to dye; in which Case, if the said Provinces, prepossess'd against their Interests by the Artifices of the *Spaniards*, refus'd to submit to it, and despise the Assistance that shall be offer'd them to effect it, your Majesty entring the *Low-Countries* with an Army, and the States doing the same, each on its side should endeavour to conquer what is most convenient for the one or the other; and in the mean time, the said Provinces would reflect the more seriously on what they had to do, if they were not come to a positive Resolution; that in the mean while, these

Thoughts

Thoughts should be insinuated into the People, and a Love of Liberty mov'd in them by the Example of the *United-Provinces*, and the sweetness of being eas'd of so hard a Yoke as that of the *Spaniards* be enlarg'd on. That he had seen *Gamarre*, and had avoided entering into any Discourse with him on the propos'd League; that he was going to visit the Cities of the Province, where he should stay ten or twelve Days, to gain so much time, and would dispose the People to embrace the right side when the Accidents with which he's threaten'd shall no longer hinder them of an Opportunity, and at his return we should see together what was to be done. I heard all this Discourse, without shewing that I thought your Majesty would find any Advantage by it; on the contrary, I shew'd Coldness enough as to the success of all his Proposals, without seeming to go off of any one of them, because I judg'd they should all be receiv'd without Affectation, with a view of engaging these People more in our Interests than they are already, and taking them off from the great Offers now made them by the *Spaniards*. For which Reason I should think, that if the said *Sieur de Wit*, on account of the before-mention'd Difficulties, finds the second Proposition of the propos'd Project will not be agreed to, we must accept of that which proposes only the Republick, tho' it should be less for our Advantage than what he has given us hopes of; so important I believe it to be, to divert by that the States from all the Engagements propos'd to them by the *Spaniards*, and bind them still faster to us than they are bound by the late Treaty, which puts them off from the said propos'd League with the *Netherlands*, the only Means, in my Opinion, the *Spaniards* have left to preserve the *Low-Countries*; and 'tis not to be doubted, but they'll try all ways to bring it about. Whatever Resolution the *Sieur de Wit* comes to hereon, your Majesty will have leisure to let me know yours, before I agree on any thing with him, because

I shall fend you all the Projects presented me before I sign any Treaty, as you have order'd me; and as you understand your Interests better than I, so your Majesty will have time to shew me exactly how I am to manage my self in this Negotiation.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
August 16, 1663.

IN the Journey I wrote your Majesty in my last Dispatch Monsieur *de Wit* was going to take to the Cities, to dispose them to join in with our Project, he succeeded so well, and I have on my side so well manag'd the Deputies of *Leyden*, *Schiedam*, and the *Brill*, as he desir'd me to do by a Billet he wrote me from *Amsterdam*, that at his return he found he had, by our Negotiation, besides these last Cities, secur'd those of *Amsterdam*, *Dort*, *Haerlem*, and *Rotterdam*, so that he has done more than he did before, to obtain a Power by Vertue of which he might sign a Treaty, and at the same time drew up a Project which I send your Majesty: He had been oblig'd to use the method of Cantoning, and reject that of Partition, to solve the Inconvenience of *Antwerp*, which I have largely inform'd your Majesty of in my former Dispatches, and which would certainly have broken off the Design. Your Majesty will see there's no mention made of Religion for the Towns that are to remain to the States; on the Instances I us'd with Monsieur *de Wit*, he reply'd, if any Article about that was couch'd, the Ministers and the other Provinces would thence take occasion to blame his Conduct, and even to interrupt all the Treaty when it came to be known, and that himself, assuming as it were the Negotiation, would be charg'd with a Fault that may create him a great deal of trouble; but he gave me his Word, that if ever our Project should happen to be put in Execution, and

all the Provinces were oblig'd to Subscribe it, he would so manage Matters, that the same Terms should be granted the Cities as were to *Maestricht*. And when I urg'd to him the Treaty of 35, wherein Liberty of Religion is allow'd, he reply'd, he durst not for any thing in the World promise it in Writing, for 'twould draw on him the hatred of the Ministers and the Cities: Your Majesty will see thereby there's nothing to be done farther on that Score.

Project of the Treaty propos'd by Monsieur de Wit, mention'd in the foregoing Dispatch.

FIRST, that from this time Endeavours should be us'd to prepare the Minds of the People of the Provinces, which are now under the Dominion of *Spain*, to Canton themselves, and set up a Free Republick; and to induce them to it, and forward the Execution of this Project, they should under-hand be inform'd, and that too with sufficient Assurances, that *France* and the *United-Provinces* would powerfully protect them in it, and the things they should think fit to enterprize for the Re-establishment of their Liberty, each entring into a close Alliance with them, to defend and support them against all those that should attack or trouble them, and that for ever, let whatever will happen.

That in case this Project cannot be executed during the King of *Spain's* Life, thro' the Obstacles or Oppositions that may be met with; it shall be prosecuted with double Vigour after his Death, tho' the Prince of *Spain* should be then alive, and all convenient ways be made use of to accomplish it. Nevertheless, no Arms shall be brought into the said Provinces, or any of them, in case the Magistrates of the Cities cannot be induc'd to resolve upon.

on the said Cantonment during the Life of the King or the Prince of Spain : It being the Intention of the most Christian King, and the Lords the States of the said *United-Provinces*, religiously to observe the Treaties of Peace made respectively by them with *Spain*.

In case the King and Prince of *Spain* happen to decease, then the said Provinces shall be canton'd by main Force; and Arms, if need be, be employ'd, as well to make them resolve upon it, as to repel all such as shall oppose it.

And forasmuch as it will be very difficult for the said *United-Provinces* to defend their Frontiers against Foreign Powers, all possible Efforts shall be us'd, in this latter Case, to put into the Most Christian King's Hands, for the Security of his, the Cities and Places of *Cambray*, *St. Omer*, *Aire*, *Newport*, *Furnes*, *Bergues* and *Linck*, with the Lordships and Counties depending on them; and into the Hands of the Lords the States, *Ostend*, *Plassendal*, *Bruges*, *Damme*, *Blouwenbergue*, with what *Spain* now enjoys of the Province of *Gnelderland*, and the four Quarters of *On-tremense*, and the Castles of *Navagne* and *Argenteau*, with their Dependencies. That if the said Cantonment succeeds the first or second way, both sides shall heartily labour that the said Places may be put into the Hands of the Most Christian King and the States respectively, as well for the Considerations before alludg'd, as several other important Reasons, for the common Welfare and Peace of both States.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades.:

August 17, 1663.

I Find, by your private Letter, what Difficulties the *Sieur de Wit* meets with in the Execution of his Project, especially at *Amsterdam*, occasion'd by the Fear that City is in least she should lose her Trade, if

if ever that of *Antwerp* should be made a Part of the *United-Provinces*, and that this Fear had already produc'd the same Effects at other Times: 'Twill be convenient for the said *Sieur de Wit* to find out some Expedient therein, as he has given you reason to hope, either to put an end to this Jealousie, or to let that Place fall to my Share; in either case I shall assent to whatever shall be stipulated for the Security of the Trade of *Amsterdam*.

Nevertheless, if that cannot be adjusted, I consent further, to proceed on the first Proposal, the setting up a Republick, extending our Partition a little farther than has hitherto been done, or the *Sieur de Wit* himself propos'd, upon which do you send me the Projects that are given you, before you resolve upon any thing.

'Tis certain, if *Boreel* be recall'd, *Van Bemmingen* will be put in his Place, so that I shall lose a great deal by the Exchange, because the latter will join Cunning to the other's Malice. Your Reflections thereon are very judicious, and I think fit that you make no manner of Step towards the recalling *Boreel*.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
August 23, 1663.

YOUR Majesty, by my Dispatch last Post, will have seen Monsieur *de Wit*'s new Project on the great Affair; he is still in the same Disposition, and has since only told me, that this, as well as the former, being founded chiefly on the successive Rights in the ten Provinces your Majesty might pretend by the Death of the Prince of *Spain*, notwithstanding the Renunciation so expressly declar'd in your Marriage Contract, and having propos'd to me, to prevent the Jealousies the States may conceive, when your Majesty should prepare to assert your Pretensions by Arms, he

he thought fit to let the principal Persons of the Province of *Holland*, whom he intended to engage in this Affair, comprehend what urgent Reasons your Majesty had to claim your Rights by Succession, notwithstanding the said Renunciation; that by the care the *Spaniards* had taken to have the *Pyrenean Treaty*, and the Marriage Contract, translated into their Language, the knowledge of them was now publish'd to all the World, and that thence several had Grounds to doubt the Issue. There being no present occasion of Rupture between *France* and *Spain*, which might oblige them to enter into a closer Alliance than that into which they are already enter'd, he could not insinuate into them the Necessity of that propos'd by this new Project, nor make them conceive the Interest of it, but by threatening them with the future, exaggerating the Justice of the said Rights, and shewing them the means your Majesty had to maintain them, when the Prince of *Spain's* Death should bring the Succession in dispute; that the Reasons might be taken from the secret Article, by which he heard say, it 'twas declar'd the Renunciation should not be valid, in case the Queen's Portion was not pay'd: Besides, other Infractions of the Treaty by the *Spaniards* invalidated it farther, and your Majesty was not oblig'd to it, but on Conditions relative to a-bundance of others, to which the *Spaniards* were oblig'd, and which not being kept, your Majesty was dispens'd with in keeping the said Renunciation; to which might be still added, the Queen's natural Right to the said *Netherlands*, and the Constitutions of the Country, by which she succeeded after the Prince of *Spain's* Death, and this she could not renounce. In fine, he demands either a Right well establish'd, or an apparent Colour of one, which he might make use of to satisfy his Friends, and the People afterwards in a fitting time, of the Designs your Majesty may one day form against the said Provinces, and by that shew them the necessity they are in, to take timely Precautions, by such a League as he proposes to them, and even re-
move

move the Scruples some may have, that by this means the State would be engag'd in an unjust War, and break the Treaties she has made with Spain. I ought hereon to tell your Majesty, I don't think there's any hidden Trick in it, but am convinc'd of the Sincerity of the said *Sieur de Wit's* Actions in all his Proposals, and that he endeavours only to fortifie himself with Reasons necessary to bring the most powerful of the State to be of his Mind, and by that defend himself against any evil Accidents that may happen to him from an Affair of this Consequence. I leave it to your Majesty to judge, whether without exposing your self you could not draw up a Memorial, containing the Reasons you will have to claim your Rights of Succession to the *Netherlands*, notwithstanding the said Renunciation, after the Prince of Spain's Death, which I may afterwards communicate to the *Sieur de Wit* to make use of in the present Design, it being a thing which I take to be absolutely necessary; but it must be done with so much caution, as to appear to be given him by me for his particular Instruction, without exposing your Majesty's Sign Manual, or your Secretary of State's Hand. These ways will seem dangerous, and extraordinary to your Majesty; but in such a State as this, where so many different Minds are to be managed, we are oblig'd to try new Ways, and to venture something when so great an Affair is depending, as that we are now in Treaty about.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
September 13, 1663.

I Have had two Conferences with Monsieur de Wit on the great Affair; in the last, he oblig'd me to enter into Communication with five of his Friends, to whom he has open'd himself, as Persons in whom he can confide; I found they were already come to the

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Discussion of the Reasons, your Majesty might have to claim the Succession to the *Low-Countries*, if the Prince of *Spain* dy'd; that they had examin'd those that may be inferr'd from your Marriage Contract, and were in some doubt about them, on account of the positive Renunciation, so often there stipulated, which should have been made by your Majesty and the Queen, before and after the Celebration of your Marriage.

I thought my self oblig'd to oppose this Doubt, by shewing them, that the Article immediately following that for the Queen's Portion is the Renunciation, wherein all the Queen's Rights are stipulated for, but is couch'd and understood only provided and in Consideration the Portion was paid at the appointed times, so that 'twas only Conditional and Relative to the said Article of the Portion, and did not operate if the Portion was not paid, which not being done even then, 'twas indisputable the Queen preserv'd her full and entire Right to the Succession when it fell; that all the following Articles, which by the Caution of the *Spaniards* had been couch'd in the Marriage Contracts to strengthen the said Renunciation, being after that which regulates the Portion, cannot be understood but under the same Condition so clearly explain'd by the Term *Provided* which begins it, and that the said Renunciation so often brought into the following Articles being on that Condition only, could have no Virtue, but in case the Portion had been paid at the appointed times, which not being done, 'twas not to be doubted but the Queen was still in Possession of her Rights; that to answer only the Objection they made, as to the Force of the said Renunciation, I omitted the Reasons which might be drawn from the Constitution and Laws of the *Low-Countries*, and the Infractions of the *Pyrenean* Treaty made by the *Spaniards*, which all strengthen your Majesty's Rights by Succession, and render the said Renunciation null. That I thus declar'd, as from my self only, what was your Majesty's law ful

lawful Pretensions, without knowing what Resolutions you might take to assert them in time; but that all your Designs were so moderate, and you had so much reason to be contented with your own Greatness; I thought it would be rather your Ambition to lessen the Power of the House of *Austria*, and secure the Peace of your Allies, than to procure any new Acquisitions which might give them occasion of Jealousie.

Then Monsieur *de Wit* spoke, and that he might not seem before his Friends to adhere too much to my Opinion, nor also to make little of the propos'd Difficulties, he finish'd the Conference by saying he thought your Majesty's Rights and Pretensions had Reason on their side, as had also the Renunciation. Having on this Occasion found my self engag'd by force to enter into Discourse of this Affair, before I had receiv'd your Majesty's particular Instructions, which I wait for; and which will certainly inform me better of your Intentions, I thought you would not take it ill that till then I made use of these Reasons taken from the Treaty and Clauses of the Marriage Contract.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
September 14, 1663.

TIS nine Days since I return'd from a Journey, the Success of which is a plain Proof 'twas undertaken with Prudence; it scarce took me eleven Days to march to and from *Lorraine*, to oblige that Duke to perform the Article that's now the most important of our late Treaty, which is to deliver into my Hands the Town of *Marsal*. Besides the goodness of the Fort, whose regular Fortifications, and Situation in a Marsh, render its Attack as difficult as any other fortify'd Town in the World, it ought to be reckon'd of great Im-
port,

part, that the Execution of the Treaty is begun, which has hitherto been put off on account of so many Difficulties.

The Place was surrender'd to me the fourth Instant, I have promis'd to declare in a Year whether I would demolish it, or keep it in the Condition 'tis now in. I leave the said Duke in Possession of all the Revenues of the rest of his Dominions pursuant to the said Treaty.

Nay, I have order'd my Officers to restore what they have receiv'd within this Year, and kept by way of Deposite. I have withdrawn all my Troops out of *Lorrain*, which now enjoys the sweets of Peace, and the Duke coming to see me at *Metz* the day before I departed, confess'd to me he never thought himself in so happy a Condition, nor was more contented in his Mind than now; so that I have stop'd the Mouths of all those that declaim'd already in *Germany* and elsewhere against me, on the Resolution they saw I was going to take, as if I had some great Design against the Empire, or at least a view of giving Umbrages to the Emperor, which render'd him less capable of resisting the Attacks of the Infidels, by whom he was threatned. Having been for some time in a continual march, and those I make use of in my Affairs not having been able to come up with me till within these two Days, I cannot by this Post, but shall infalibly by the next, inform you of my Thoughts and Intentions as to the Project the *Sieur de Wit* communicated to you touching the great Affair; as also what Reasons you may oppose to those given by *Don Esteven de Gamarre*, to shew the said *de Wit* and our Friends the invalidity of the Renunciation extorted from the Queen at *Fonsarabia*, the day before our Marriage Contract was sign'd.

I perceive the Ambassador *Boreel* does not alter the Custom he has always had, to give me Proofs of his ill Will as often as he can. What he has so much aggravated by his Letters about the Ship arriv'd at *Rochelle* with

with *Swedish* Colours, of which nothing was demanded for the Freight, is a meer trifle that can have no manner of Consequence: 'Twas desir'd of me in *Sweden*, for their greater Convenience, to pay a little Sum of Money owing from me in *French* Salt, in consideration of which, I order'd that the Duty on the Ship which was so laden should not be exacted. This was done accordingly, for this Voyage only, and this single Ship, and will not at all have any Consequence for other Ships that shall come into my Ports. I should have done the same in the like Case to a *Dutch* Ship. And when the States find, that for the future the *Swedes* are no more exempted than they from paying that Duty, they will have no ground of Complaint, nor the *Sieur Boreel* an Opportunity to exercise his Malice.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, September 19, 1663.

THE Count D'Estades, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, thinks himself oblig'd to acquaint your Lordships, that the King his Master, after eleven Days absence in a Journey to *Lorrain*, return'd to *Paris* the 5th of this Month in perfect Health; that having given the Duke of *Lorrain* to understand what just Pretensions his Majesty had to the Town of *Marfal*, and that it should be deliver'd into his Majesty's Hands, pursuant to the Conditions of the Treaty made with him, that Prince readily agreed to it, and his Majesty's Garrison march'd into the Place the 4th.

That his Majesty is oblig'd to declare in a Year, whether he will keep the Place in the Condition 'tis

now in, or demolish it; that the Duke is left in Possession of all the other Revenues of his Dominions during his Life, and Restitution granted him of those that had been receiv'd within this Year by his Majesty's Officers, in whose Hands they remain'd by way of Deposite. The Troops had then Orders to quit *Lorraine*, and that Duke is so well satisfy'd with these Conditions, that coming to see the King at *Metz*, the Morning before he departed to return to *France*, he express'd to him the Joy he was in to find himself by that means in his Majesty's good Graces again.

On the Complaint made by the Ambassador Monsieur *Boreel*, that a *Swedish* Ship being arriv'd at *Rochelle*, had been exempted from the Payment of the Duty on the Freight, which was at the same time exacted from all the *Dutch* Ships that were in the said Port; the said Ambassador Extraordinary has Orders to reply, that his Majesty having agreed to pay a little Sum of Money he owes in *Sweden* in Salt, had granted the Ship that should come to fetch it the Privilege of being exempt from the said Duty, and 'twas for that Reason the Custom-House Officers were forbidden to exact any thing of the said Ship: That your Lordships ought not to draw any Consequence from this Example, for as much as for the future all Ships that shall come into the Ports of *France* with *Swedish* Colours shall pay the said Duty as well as all other Nations do, who are oblig'd to Trade there. Done at the *Hague*, September 19. 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From

*From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
September 20, 1663.*

I Receiv'd two Letters from your Majesty of the 14th of this Month, and I am by this to give you an Account of a Difference that some time since happen'd between the Provinces of *Holland* and *Zealand*, and is now in a way to produce great Trouble to this State, if it be not accommodated. The apparent Occasion of it is the Trade *Zealand* carries on in Salt refin'd there, on which *Holland* would levy Duties as a Foreign Commodity, and as if the Traders were out of the Sovereignty, which is contrary to the Treaty of Union. On this Occasion the Greatness of *Holland* has created a great deal of Jealousie, Complaints are made of her daily Attempts against the Rights of the other Provinces, by the Resolutions she takes alone in Affairs relating to the Generality, by the Liberty she assumes to be first nam'd in the publick Prayers, and by stretching her Sovereignty in other things; under pretence that she bears above half of the Charge, that she has advanc'd great Sums, and is not reimburs'd, and having the greatest Part of the Troops in her Repartition, she takes upon her to dispose of Garrisons, and to exclude the other Provinces, which are by that means Sufferers, and complain of it.

Zealand being the most powerful of the Six, always is endeavouring to balance this Authority, and support all these Complaints by her particular Resentment: 'Tis for this Reason she has so often demanded the Prince's being put in his Father's Offices, and oppos'd the Resolutions taken by *Holland* in 31, for the Constitution of a new Regiment, hoping her own Power join'd with that of the Prince, and her Adherents in the other Provinces, would be a Bridle to that of *Holland*, and the thing be thus kept in an Equality: These general Interests are fomented by two oppo-

site Cabals at *Middleburgh*, one that of the Burgomaster *Thibaut*, a Man of Sense and Reputation, who in 1651 was like to be assassinated on the *Princet's* Account, in a popular Commotion rais'd against him by the contrary Cabal, under pretext of the Management of the Treasury, which he was call'd to account for. Monsieur *de Wit*, Pensionary of the said City, was chief of the other Cabal; and the Enmity between these two Persons, in which the most considerable Men of the Province was engag'd, encreasing, the publick Affairs certainly suffer by it, and 'tis even of the last Consequence for your Majesty that a way be found out to put an end to it. Your Majesty knows very well that the Agreement of *Zeland* with *Holland* is highly necessary towards the Success of our Project; Monsieur *de Wit* and I have discours'd upon it, and this Difference, being now renew'd with some Heat, he thinks it of the last Necessity, to succeed in the Design we are forming, to find out some Expedient to reconcile these two Men, and 'tis what he's now labouring about.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
September 21, 1663.

YOU will perceive by my other Letter, and the Project I send you, what my Opinion and Intentions are as to the great Affair; I only observe to you seperately by this, the Reasons that have made me conclude, that the Contents of two of the Articles in the *Sieur de Wit's* Project ought not to be inserted in the new Treaty, the one is the first wherein 'tis said, That the Minds of the People shall be dispos'd from this time to Canton themselves, that we should understand Promise them a powerful Protection for the Execution of this Design, and forthwith enter into a Strict Alliance with them, to defend and support them

them against all those that would attack or trouble them.

The other is the last of the same Project, wherein 'tis said That in the same case of Cantonment, before the Succession falls, both shall on each side do fairly what lyes in their Power, that the Places nam'd in the foregoing Article may be put into my Hands and the States: The Execution of these two Articles being a notorious Breach of the Peace, it seems to me we can't in Decency or Honour insert them in a Treaty, wherein in another Place we declare our Intention is to keep religiously the late Treaties of Peace made with Spain; the States, are in my Opinion, as much concern'd as I, that this should not be laid to their Charge with Justice. It may be said these Stipulations shall be kept entirely secret, but what may be a Secret a little while, cannot be always so; nor conceal'd from Posterity. There are some things that are good to be done, but ill to be put in Writing; I say plainly what is in my Thoughts, and would not have the *Sieur de Wit* or his Friends think there's any Trick in it; to do me Justice, they need only consider, that the Event which I ought for my own Interest to wish for of any thing in the World, is that the People of *Flanders* should themselves immediately expel the *Spaniards*, and remove those ill Neighbours who have already caus'd so many Evils to *France*; and for an infallible Proof of it, I should presently agree to every thing, if in discussing Matters with you some Expedient could be found out to solve the Inconvenience I have thought of thereon, by declaring in the same Treaty we would religiously observe the Treaties of Peace, and yet including at least two Articles which are directly and notoriously against them, without being able to colour this Breach of 'em with any Pretence whatsoever.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
September 21, 1663.

Wherefore to let you know my Sentiments on the *Sieur de Wit's* new Project, which he put into your Hands when I departed for *Corrain*, I tell you, that not being willing to break the Peace by entering into this League, as I am satisfy'd the States do not intend, I think 'tis convenient to consult things so well together that there be no Article in it contrary to the said Peace; as to the mutual Promise to dispose of the Minds of the People from the present Time to set themselves at Liberty in the *Netherlands*, by the Expulsion of the *Spaniards*, I think 'tis enough to agree we will do it as soon as the Succession to the Crown of *Spain* falls, without mentioning such an Insinuation 'till then, it being methinks sufficient to arrive at the end we propose to our selves for the publick Welfare and Peace, to prepare the Means before-hand to conduct us safely to it.

I send you another Project which you may freely communicate to the *Sieur de Wit*, adding to it, or diminishing from it, as it shall be thought proper after you have discuss the Matter better together, and observ'd the Rocks and Inconveniences to be avoided. Further, 'tis pretty problematical to suppose, that if when I might shew the States very plainly the Renunciation extorted from the Queen is Null, I ought to give the strongest Evidence of my Right, because they will presently infer, that I will by all means, whatever happens, assert it in its full Extent when time serves; 'tis besides to be fear'd, that this Negotiation coming to the Knowledge of several Persons, some of 'em, who will not be convinc'd of my Claim as well as the others, may give the *Spaniards's* Advice of the Damage they do themselves by not paying the Queen's Portion, which would cancel one of the strongest Reasons

sons I can alledge in my Favour, for my Right to the Succession of their Crown.

These two Considerations make me believe, 'tis not Necessary, nor even Proper for you to shew, as we may easily do, the Nullity of the Queen's Renunciation in all its force; but that you your self, when you talk of it, say as the *Sieur de Wit* has already said, that there are Reasons on both Sides which seem good and maintainable.

However, not to give up my Cause, (which would still give them more Suspicion) you may reduce my Reasons to three Heads, without standing too stiffly upon either of 'em.

The First, That whatever Renunciation the *Spaniards* have extorted would have been Null, notwithstanding the Portion had been paid, because no civil Act could destroy the Right of Nature, and the Queen being the Eldest of the King of *Spain's* Daughters, she could not wrong her self, nor her Children; besides, 'tis worth observing that my Son was born before the payment of the Portion, and as soon as he saw Light, he acquir'd a Right, which could not afterwards be disputed.

The Second is the same you have already said, That the Queen's Renunciation was only Conditional, that is, in case 500000 Crowns of Gold were paid at the Times contain'd in the Marriage Contract; which the King of *Spain* not having yet discharg'd, 'tis not to be doubted but she was restor'd to all her Rights, it not being just that the chief Heir should have no share of the Succession.

The Third, That neither I nor the Queen ratify'd this Renunciation after she came to *France*, as it was expressly stipulated by the Marriage Contract, and the Ministers of *Spain* never durst use any Instances with me to do it, knowing very well themselves, that the effective Payment of the Queen's Portion ought to proceed it, and consequently, that they could not handsomely make such a Demand of me.

*Project of a New Treaty between the King,
and the Lords the States-General*

THE King, and the Lords the States, &c, considering, as the Affairs of the World now stand, that by the singular Effect of divine Mercy the greatest Part of the Kingdoms and States of Europe enjoy profound Peace, and that 'tis to be fear'd the Succession to the Crown of Spain coming to be disputed, the Nations of Christendom may be again plung'd into the same Disorders, Misfortunes and Calamities, out of which they were with so much Trouble deliver'd by the late famous Treaties of *Westphalia*, and the *Pyrenees*, his Majesty and the said Lords the States, by a Foresight and Precaution worthy their great Prudence, have thought fit to Unite themselves again in a closer Union, and that their Friendship may not be alter'd by any Accident, at this time to regulate together, and consult of what Face is to be given to the Affairs of the ten Provinces of the *Low-Countries*, under the Dominion of Spain, in which his Majesty and the said States are so Eminently concern'd. The Succession to the Crown of Spain would, when it falls, undoubtedly with all Right and Justice descend to his Majesty in Right of the Queen, his Wife, through the Invalidity and Nullity of the Renunciation extorted from her at *Fonterabia*, before she came to France, and for want of performing several Conditions on the *Spaniards* side, which were expressly stipulated by the Marriage Contract, and to which the pretended Renunciation was not Relative; these are Truths so evident, and so well known to the People of *Flanders* themselves, that several of their principal Members have jointly debated of Means to defend themselves against the Evils they see they are threaten'd with, and the most Prudent among them have thought there's no Way for them

so sure, as now to resolve to Capton themselves into a Free Republick, ally'd to this State, and under the King's Protection, having found by 150 Years sad Experience, ever since they came under the Domination of the House of *Austria*, that their Country has been nothing but a Bloody Scene of War, Misery and Desolation. The sincere Affection the King has for the said Lords the States, and his Desire, as has been said, to make their Friendship and Union eternal, so that no Jealousie of Neighbourhood, or of too great Power, may alter it, have engag'd him to condescend in Consideration of the said Lords the States, that in case the Succession to the Crown of *Spain* falls, he will not make use of his ample Rights as to what relates to the *Low-Countries*, but out of his singular Moderation be contented, that the People who ought naturally to be subject to his Government shall then become Free; and form a new Republick ally'd to the said Lords the States, under his Majesty's Protection, excepting only some Places of the said Provinces which lye Commodious for his Majesty, the better to cover the Frontiers of his Kingdom, and for his greater Safety, excepting also some other Places, which notwithstanding his Rights he condescends to yield up entirely to the States, for the same Reasons of Commodiousness, and greater Safety, as is hereafter mention'd; in consideration of which, and to correspond answerably to so great a Sign of Disinterest in his Majesty, the said Lords the States voluntarily engage by the present Treaty to concur with him, and second with all their Might, his good and gracious Designs in the Manner following.

In the first place, his Majesty and the said Lords the States declare their Intention is religiously to observe the late Treaties made with *Spain*, without carrying the War into the *Netherlands*, only in case of his Majesty's Pretensions in Right of the Queen his Wife; if before the People of *Flanders* have ta-

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ken the Resolution, to which they seem dispos'd, to form a Free Republick, for preventing the Miseries with which they see they are threatned, the Succession to the Crown of *Spain* falls in favour of the Queen; then as all the Rights to the said Crown will belong to his Majesty, and he may, do, as he pleases, without infringing in any wise the late Treaties of Peace, the said ten Provinces shall be canton'd and erected into a Free Republick, and his Majesty and the said Lords the States make use of Force and Arms; if need be, as well to oblige them so to do, as against all that shall oppose them. And forasmuch as for the Reasons herein before touch'd upon, it not only Imports his Majesty and the said Lords the States, in this Alteration and new Face of Affairs in the *Low-Countries*, to cover their Frontiers well against Foreign Powers which may meddle with and concern themselves against them, they shall on both sides do their utmost to put into his Majesty's Hands the Cities and Places of *Cambray, Aire, Newport, Furnes* and *Linch*, and the Lordships of *Cassel, Balien, Porlingue*; and into the Hands of the said Lords the States *Ostend, Plassendal, Bruget, Damme, Blonquemberque*, with what *Spain* now possesses of the Province of *Guelderland*, and her four Quarters of *Otremeuse*, and the Castles of *Navaigne* and *Argenteau* with their Dependances.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
September 27, 1663.

THIS of the last Importance that Monsieur de Wu be fully satisfy'd, that his Friends may afterwards be so by his Means, that moreover they know we carry our selves toward him with an entire Confidence, to oblige him to continue that, which he has shewn in me from the first Overture of this Affair; and

and that, methinks, cannot be done without communicating fully to him the said Reasons; nay, I have had an occasion which I could not avoid, by reading to him the Project your Majesty sent me, because 'tis grounded all on the Nullity of the Renunciation exacted by the *Spaniards*; of which he not failing to demand of me the Reasons, I could not help adding those your Majesty instructed me with, to those I had made use of before, and the good Effect they produc'd in his Mind, is the Cause that I do not repent it. But I afterwards gave him to understand, your Majesty confiding in him so entirely, was not afraid to discover to him by that the ill conduct of the *Spaniards*, who for want of performing the Conditions of the *Pyrenean Treaty*, had strengthen'd your Right by new Reasons, the force of which he could not but perceive, and might set them forth to his Friends as from himself, without discovering they came from me, for fear that being divulg'd by some one or other, who has a share in the secret of this Affair, the *Spaniards* may hear of it, and some Let may happen which may prevent its Success. He agreed with me, and as I left him fully convinc'd of the Justice of your Majesty's Rights, so I doubt not he is also of your Moderation, and that he will act in it as you would have him.

He has demanded time to communicate the Project to his Friends, and thought your Majesty's Remark on the two first Articles very judicious: He must be allow'd to digest the rest, and at leisure make all the Reflections on it he and his Friends think fit.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 4, 1663.

I Talk'd with Monsieur de *Wit* this Day on the great Affair; he said he could make me no Answer on the Project I had communicated to him from your Majesty; that the Motions, which at present acted the two Chiefs were not appeas'd, and that 'twould entirely spoil all to urge the Matter, as the Minds of Men were then dispos'd. The States of this Province met this Morning to resolve on what was to be done on the Resolution of *Zealand*; they have continu'd sitting from Noon to seven a Clock in the Evening, and are not now broken up at the departure of the Courier, so that I cannot give your Majesty any account of what he has pass'd; by the next Post I will do it.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 4, 1663.

THE Demand of *Zealand*, as to the publick Prayers, is, that the States-General be rather mention'd than the States of the Province of *Holland*; the former representing the Quality of seven Provinces, of which *Holland* is but one. This Province opposes it, alledging, that being Sovereign as well as the States-General, and ordering the said Prayers only within the Extent of her own Sovereignty, wherein she acknowledges no Superior, she has a Right to cause her self to be first nam'd, leaving other Provinces to do at Home what they please in the like Case. Your Majesty sees by that, all the Grounds of the Bitterness and Division forming between the two Provinces; the Animosity of the *Sieurs de Wit* and *Thibaut* comes in for private Interests, Madam, the Dowager con-

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cerns her self in this Matter also for her own; Prince William is gone from *Breda* to *Friseland* and *Groningen*, to engage those two Provinces, of which he is Governor, to side with *Zealand*; he would not take the *Hague* in his way. The *English* Faction joins with all these Parties, and discovers by that, Occasion may hence be taken to advance the Interests of the Prince of *Orange*, which have been always thwarted by *Holland*, and maintain'd by *Zealand*. The *Spaniards* are very busie endeavouring to encrease these Heats, they always thinking it their Interest to disturb the Union, and to do ill Offices to Monsieur de Wit, by insinuating he is the Promoter of all these Attempts of *Holland*, and the Constitutions which they say he makes *mal a propos*; they are so eagerly set on revenge against him on this occasion, that the *Spanish* Ambassador could not help saying some time ago, the time was come for them to have Satisfaction of the greatest Enemy the House of *Austria* had among the States, that 'twould be seen how he would appease the Provinces, who with so much Reason complain'd of him, and said afterwards a hundred things which discover'd his ill Designs, and his Practices in the State to execute them, I told Monsieur de Wit of it, to make him the more warm for your Majesty's Interest, and set him the more against that of the *Spaniards*, his declar'd Enemies. This had so good an Effect, that he has since conferr'd with me on this Subject again, and went so far as to demand of me to interpose with some of my Friends in *Zealand*, and help him to put an end to those Differences: This is what I am now at work about, and that without engaging your Majesty's Name absolutely; however I have observ'd to all such as are in your Interests, that they cannot give you a more certain Sign of their good Disposition, than in contributing what in them lyes to restore the good Intelligence that ought to be between the two Provinces, that they have no other way to support themselves but by Union, and by shewing them the Care your Ma-

jesty takes to put an end to their Divisions, I prove the Sincerity of your Intentions for the Welfare of the State, a quite contrary way of Proceeding to that of the *Spaniards*. This Behaviour of mine has so pleas'd Monsieur *de Wit*, that he return'd me Thanks. I shall continue to do the same with so much the more warmth, by how much your Majesty has already comprehend-ed the Advantages that may accrue to you by it, and has given me Orders about it in your last Dispatch.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
October 11, 1663.

Monsieur *de Wit* having had time to examine the Project your Majesty sent me with his Friends, we have since had several Conferences, in which he has acquainted me with the Difficulties that it meets with, which consist all in the Validity of the Queen's Renunciation, repeated in several Articles of the Treaty, and very far from that which speaks of the Portion, and it cannot, they think, be understood, nor taken for a Condition Relative to the said Portion, or at least the thing remains doubtful, and his Friends think it too bold for the Province of *Holland* to decide this Doubt in your Majesty's Favour, it being an Affair of so great Consequence, and against a Prince their Friend and Ally; that this Decision was plainly declar'd by all the Preamble of the Treaty I gave him, wherein your Majesty's Rights were stretch'd and explain'd at large, that from thence they conceiv'd a Jealousie that 'twas intended by this step to engage them too far in the Differences that may one Day arise from this Contest, that this Proceeding would pass for a rash Attempt, would never be approv'd by the other Provinces, and that those who sign'd a Treaty couch'd in such strong Terms, would be expos'd to dangerous Consequences, which might even interrupt the Course of
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the good Intelligence your Majesty and the said Provinces propos'd to themselves by this Union. That he, Monsieur de Wit, had not thought of a better way to confirm them, than by representing to them there were Reasons on the side of your Majesty's Pretensions that defended them, and oppos'd the Validity of the Renunciation; that things should not be searcht so far into, and 'twas enough your Majesty had a Right to oblige the Province, to take such necessary Precautions against the time, when it might be asserted, that she might rather receive an advantage than hurt by it. That 'twas for that Reason the Treaty was propos'd, and that he thought it proper to strike out what gave Offence, and that long Argument for the Rights of Succession, notwithstanding the said Renunciation; and on this Basis he has deliver'd to me a new Project which I send to your Majesty, wherein you will observe, he has, to avoid all Inconveniencies, made use of the Terms which are in my Power, in the Preamble of it, without saying a Word of the Rights of Succession; but they appear to be so well establish'd in the following Articles, that I reckon they come to the same Decision they would avoid, and are equally engag'd by it. Your Majesty will find the first Article a little hard, in that it seems to impose a Law on you, not to make a War in the *Netherlands* for any Reason whatsoever, 'till after the Succession falls: But besides that 'tis so couch'd to give an Impression of the Observation of the Treaties with *Spain*, I have soften'd it by what's understood at the end of my adding, which gives Power to your Majesty and the Lords the States to do it equally, in case the said Treaties be infring'd; and we having to do with a suspicious People, I endeavour more to engage them in the essential part of the Affair, than stand on Punctilio's in the manner of expressing it, wherefore I thought fit to leave the same Terms Monsieur de Wit made use of in the said Treary, they being approv'd of by his Friends, rather than invent new, which being

perhaps more significant would have created more Jealousie. To shew me that the Article containing there shall be nothing innovated in the Privileges granted the said *United-Provinces*, as well for the Canals as other things relating to Commerce, and their Security, is no new Demand, Monsieur *de Wit* sent me an Abstract of a new Treaty they have made with the *Spaniards* on that Subject, wherein the same things are declar'd. Monsieur *de Wit*, in the last Conference I had with him, communicated a Letter to me which he receiv'd from Chancellor *Hyde*, by *Downing*, a Copy of which I send your Majesty; and it being, as your Majesty will see, conceiv'd in general Terms which signifying something, yet do not say any thing precisely, Monsieur *de Wit* would have had *Downing* explain 'em, but he in his Conference was as General as the Chancellor had been in his Letter; however, he gave him to understand that 'twas for the Interests of the States, as well as *England*, to provide against what was to come, without telling him with respect to whom; and he perceiving this is the same Language the *Spaniards* use, when they would create a Jealousie of your Majesty's Ambition and great Designs, he supposes he had the same views; to discover it the better he gave the said *Downing* all imaginable hopes of it, and desir'd him to speak more clearly; two Days hence he is to speak with him again, and then he'll see what he drives at, the Particulars of which he will inform me of, to give your Majesty an Account of it. I took hold of this Opportunity to ask his Opinion as to our Conduct, with regard to *England*; and as to that, I told him the close League your Majesty had enter'd into with the States, and the Affection with which you were convinc'd all his Interests wou'd be supported by his Management, had made your Majesty in some Measure neglect *England*, thinking that being sure of the States, you had nothing to fear; that you had not yet renew'd any Treaty of Alliance with her, and I ask'd him if he did not imagine 'twould be proper for the

the carrying on the great Affair, to keep that Prince engag'd in our Interests, tho' we got nothing by it, but to divide him from the *Spaniards*; he reply'd, your Majesty could not do better, that 'twas even necessary to be done, because when the Succession fell, the King of *England* might grow jealous of such a Neighbour in the *Netherlands*, and might be prevail'd on by the Prayers of the *Spaniards*, or even of those People, to give them Assistance, which would be easie for him to do; that if one could bring him over so far as to maintain your Majesty's successive Rights, the King and Prince of *Spain* happening to dye, 'twould be a great Advantage; but care should be taken not to discover the Treaty which was to that end making with the States, to him. I brought on this Discourse on purpose to remove all Umbrage, which I perceiv'd he had of our Alliance with *England*, and to excuse it when it shall be concluded, it being his own Advice, and he himself thinking it for your Majesty's Interests.

Your Majesty is to judge whether *Downing's* Proposals are not the Result of some Chagrin in the King his Master, finding himself neglected, especially considering the Discourse in *England*, when I was making the Treaty with *Dunkirk*, threaten'd it, tho' we should have that Place, and those that were the Authors in it repenting of it now, and being of another Mind, may have inclin'd that King to hearken to some Proposals on the side of *Spain*; and if this be the Case, whether it will not be proper for your Majesty to make some Advances towards *England*, to remove all ill Impressions, or at least to dispose things there as may be necessary for the Execution of your Majesty's Design.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur
de Lionne: October 25, 1663.

I Receiv'd a Letter of the 19th of this Month, in answer to mine of the 11th; you will have seen the sequel of my Advices by that of the 18th; *Downing* has not seen *Monsieur de Wit* since, and says he waits for Orders from the Chancellor. But the said *Sieur de Wit* and I are satisfy'd 'tis a Device of his to avoid discovering himself further, he finding the said *Sieur de Wit* was not so well dispos'd as he would have had him; I shall see what he will resolve on, and what Orders he'll receive on the Treaty he has very *mat a propos* hinted here; in the mean while he does not visit me.

As to the Dispute renew'd in *England* on account of the Fishery, and the Molestation lately given our Fishers; you may, if you please, remember, Sir, that the same thing happen'd in the Year 1661, by Virtue of a Claim pretended to that no Foreigners are to Fish within the Franchises of the Cinque Ports, without Leave from the Warden, who is the Duke of *York*; and that some Fishermen being seiz'd on this Dispute, and their Nees taken, an *English* Ship was stop'd at *Boulogne* by way of Reprisal. But on my Instances with the Duke of *York*, the said Fishermen were set at Liberty, and his Majesty afterwards order'd the said Ship to be releas'd, and at the same time revok'd the Orders he had sent to *Blaye* to fire on the *English*, according to an old Custom, alledging the only reason why he dispens'd with it in the Treaty made with *Cromwell*, was in Consideration of the Liberty he understood had been granted all Fishers; upon which I ought now to represent to you, as I did then, that there is no mention of the said Fishery in the said Treaty, but 'tis contain'd in the fourth Article; that the Subjects of both States shall have Liberty to Traffick in all the Ports
and

and Places of their Dependencies, without being oblig'd to ask any Leave, and unless you will construe Fishing to be a Trade, I can't see that Treaty gives us any new Permission, which you can set against the dispensing with the firing at *Maye* formally agreed upon.

From the Count D'Estades to Monsieur Colbert, November 8, 1663.

OF all the Treaties of Commerce made between England and the United-Provinces, that of the Year 1495, commonly call'd the Treaty of Intercourse, concluded between King *Henry VII* and the Archduke *Philip*, passes for the most Important, and the said Provinces, ever since the State was form'd, have always endeavour'd to regulate those they have made by it. This Treaty is printed at the End of Monsieur *Grotius's* Book, Intituled, *Mare Liberum*; however, the States in the two last Treaties they made, the First in the Year 1654, with the Protector, the Second in 1662, with the King of England, only kept in what is found in the Twelfth Article of the one, and the Ninth of the other; both which imply, that the two Nations are to have respectively a Freedom of Commerce in general of all Merchandize imported or exported in all Ports, Cities and Towns, by Sea, fresh Water, or Land, through all their Dependancies in Europe, paying the usual Imposts, and such as are paid by other Foreigners.

The English, since the Year 1654, finding by Experience that the *Hollanders* take away the greatest Part of their Trade from 'em, and that by the Cheapness of their Traffick, Merchants find their Account better in making use of *Dutch* Ships than those of their own Nation, both as to the Price of the Freight and the Preservation of their Merchandize, pass'd an Act of Parliament by which 'twas forbidden to all Foreigners to

Traffick in the Ports of *England* in any other Commodities, but those of the Growth of their Country: This Act was renew'd after the King of *England's* Restauration, but has not either before or since been put in Execution, because the *English* themselves, who trade to the *Levant*, the *Canaries*, and the North, find 'tis cheaper and safer to load their Goods in *Dutch* Bottoms, than those of their own Nation, and for this Reason this Infraction of Commerce is wink'd at, because there's no Remedy for it. This Act being a Prohibition to all Nations, 'twould be for our Advantage to require an Exception for us, when the Treaty with *England* is renew'd. This is all the Information I can give you on this Subject, and you will be a better Master of it, by reading the Treaty of Intercourse, and those of 1654 and 1662.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: November 15, 1663.

TO Answer yours of the 9th of *November* with the same Confidence you write to me, and only between you and me, I must tell you I find my self very much embarrass'd about your Request, to assist you as to the Counsel you ought to give the King in the Affairs propos'd, for I have not the Presumption to suppose my Lights can add any thing to yours, in a thing which seems to you of such importance. However, since you and I should hide nothing from each other that is for his Majesty's Service, I shall make no scruple to declare my Sentiments to you on the present Occasion, without pretending by it to regulate yours in any wise whatsoever.

The Project as 'tis propos'd, even with its Additions, does not take away from the King the Liberty of making War in the *Low-Countries*, but only tells when and for what it should be done. The Grounds for it are

two-fold, the falling of the Succession in right of the Queen, and the Breaking the *Pyrenean Treaty*. The First, on Condition the *Low-Countries* under the Dominion of *Spain* refuse to Canton themselves, and form a Republick; and for the Time, the King is oblig'd to wait for the King and Prince of *Spain's* Death, for the States seem to determine, his Majesty has nothing to pretend to 'till then.

In this first Ground of War, the King seems to be griev'd two Ways. The First, in that by this Cantoning it appears that he renounces the Advantage of a mighty Succession, which belongs to him after the Death of the King and Prince of *Spain*, he having no Liberty to pursue it by Arms, unless those People refuse to Canton themselves, and that he sacrifices a great deal to the Friendship of the States, and the Interest they have, not to have him for their Neighbour, in not making use of the fulness of his Right.

The King is again griev'd in the Time prescrib'd for the demanding this Succession; because, if the Reports at *Brussels* as to the King of *Spain's* Death be true, the Succession to the Dutchy of *Brabant* and County of *Namur* belong to the Queen, as eldest, without staying for the Prince of *Spain's* Death: The Order of Succession, as it has a long time been observ'd in the *Low-Countries*, being such; if this Order be founded on Example or Law, and I can make it known here, I doubt not 'twill be easie for me to redress this Grievance, and that I shall make *Holland* or those with whom we treat Comprehend, 'tis not at all for their Interest to retrench this Time, and that 'tis very much for ours.

As to the first Grievance it seems quite impossible to hinder it, because these People enter into this Treaty only out of Fear of what's to come, and the Umbrage they conceive of the Neighbourhood of the King's Power, to which they would oppose something stronger than their State, and for this end they thought of forming a new one, which they pretend to do on the

the Disposition the People there are in to erect a Republick; so that this Grievance is no Grievance unless those Provinces Canton themselves, and submit to the Treaty, for otherwise the King is at Liberty to pursue his Rights by Arms, and the States are oblig'd to join with him in it; and the Difficulties that will be met with in the forming this Republick are so great, there are so many different Humours and Inclinations, so many contrary Interests among the People of those Provinces, so many Privileges to be disputed between the Clergy, Nobility and Commons of the State, so great a Number of Friends to the *Spaniards* bred up in a Century, that if the Example of the seven Provinces, the Love of Liberty, and the Protection of two Potent States might incline them to throw off the Yoke of the House of *Austria*, 'tis impossible but it must be a Work of many Years.

The State of the seven Provinces, assisted successively by four great Princes of the House of *Nassau*, by *France* *England*, and part of *Germany*, besides the Love of Liberty, animated by the Severity of the Inquisition, and a false Zeal for a new Doctrine, was threescore Years a forming.

From these Reasons, and these Examples, one may conclude, that this cantoning is as it were impossible, or at least if it can succeed, 'twill take up so much time, and meet with so many Difficulties, that 'twill change the Nature of the Treaty, and give the King an Opportunity to expound it as he pleases, and have all the advantage of it, and we may by the Illusion of a difficult and unlikely Event, or by the Bait of some Place, find out Occasion not only to disengage the Lords the States from a League with the ten Provinces, but also engage them on our side for this Conquest, under colour and name of preserving our Rights, and the King by complying with this Cantoning, and acting the moderate Part, in not making use of the fulness of his Power, in effect gives the States nothing, and yet will most profitably make use of them to secure the

Succession of the ten Provinces. As to the Obligation the King lays on himself, by the said Treaty, to come to a Communication with the States on the Grounds of a Rupture, which may happen by the Infractions of the *Pyrenean Treaty*, 'tis a Condition which does not weaken the King's Cause, and 'tis but just and usual that defensive Allies should hinder their being drawn into an unjust War against their Inclinations and Interest, and to insist on the contrary ever so little would be to encrease the Fear the *Spaniards* endeavour to create of the Greatness of his Majesty's Designs, and his boundless Ambition, by which they are apprehensive of being hurry'd into a War on trivial Subjects; and tho' his Majesty obliges himself to seek for Reparations of the Infractions, by the Methods propos'd in the said Treaty, 'tis to be understood, those Methods are meant to be what he shall think most suitable to the common Profit of the Allies, because the said Treaty prescribes none. This being presuppos'd, I leave to you to judge of the Objection you raise, in telling me that by the Conditions of this Project, the King of Spain will obtain the Substance of what *Gamarra* demands of the State, and that by signing a Treaty which obliges his Majesty not to carry a War into the *Low-Countries*, but in the two Cases alledg'd, the Succession falling, and the Infraction of the *Pyrenean Treaty*, and under Condition of the Refusal of the Cantoning, the *Low-Countries* are as secure as if they had a defensive League with the States; at least there's this difference in it, they secure themselves; and we gain by it a State, which we deprive them of, and with which they endeavour to League themselves, and as to the Trick they may put on us in signing a Treaty of a League with the said Provinces the next Day, 'tis a Risk that cannot be avoided in all Treaties, and we ran it in that of the Year 1662, but 'tis not very apparent in this; and tho' such a Misfortune should happen, the King's Condition would not be the worse, he would not lose any thing of his Right,

Right, but be free to prosecute it as much as if he had enter'd into no Engagement with the said State; however, 'till this Trick is play'd us, we shall at least secure the Lords the States on our side as much as we can so long, and hinder their joining with *Spain*, which is the greatest Advantage the King can propose to himself to gain his Ends; the rest must be decided by Times and Actions.

After having told you my Opinion, I must tell you Monsieur de Wis's, to whom I propos'd your Doubts as from my self, and this was his Answer.

That if the Succession to *Brabant* and *Namur* was found to belong to the Queen as eldest, by the Usage of Successions practis'd in the *Low-Countries*, and this Claim is founded on Law and Example, the Province of *Holland* would not be against it, nor scruple the Time of the falling of the Succession to the *Low-Countries* on this head to the King of *Spain's* Death, without staying for that of the Prince; but before an Article to that effect be couch'd in the present Treaty, 'tis necessary to have that Matter clear'd up, or otherwise to pass it as 'tis mention'd in the said Project.

That *Spain* finding no other way for the Preservation of the *Low-Countries*, in the ill State of the King's Age and Health, and the Prince of *Spain's* Constitution, but the League propos'd, offers the States a *Carte Blanche* to gain their Consent, and the said States think 'tis on this Occasion a pretty fair Sign of their Inclination to *France*, in their not hearkning to those Proposals; as also that 'tis a considerable Advantage to *France*, to have the *Netherlands* in the Hands of the Projected Republick, without being oblig'd to use any great Strength about it, or being diverted from the Desigos she may have form'd otherwise, so that she may by this means be said to have found out a way to Inherit the *Netherlands* without almost striking a Blow; and after so sincere a Token of the States good and loyal Intentions for his Majesty's Interest, she should

should not think it strange that they endeavour to keep their Word with *Spain* in the last Treaty, and to avoid, by the Cautions they take in the said Project, to enter into any rash Rupture with the *Spaniards*, by settling the falling of the said Succession on the King and Prince of *Spain's* Death, or the examining the Infractions of the *Pyrenean* Treaty; that *France* had even set them this Example, in objecting to something in the first Project, which shock'd Decency and fair Dealing.

As for the Change apprehended, and the Fear I shew'd him there might be, that after the Treaty was sign'd a Fancy might take the States to sign the League, he reply'd 'twas an Inconvenience less to be fear'd in a popular State as theirs was, than in a Monarchical; Resolutions not being so easily chang'd, where the Interests of State were always the same, not depending on the Authority of a single Person, who governs all, is Absolute, and might change the Face of Affairs; that to take some Precautions therein, the States of *Holland* and *Westfriseland* might be at the same time dispos'd to come to a Negative Resolution in their great Assembly on *Gamarre's* Proposals of the said League, and to assure his Majesty at the same Time from the same Province, as far as the Constitution of the said State will permit, that they will never enter into this League as long as his Majesty, and his Successors, shall observe the Articles of the Treaty aforesaid.

After all this, I must tell you, that Care should be taken, now these People have propos'd the present Treaty, not to let them fall into a Distrust by the Difficulties we start, for fear lest by shocking them, or frightening them by our Designs, they join in with the *Spaniards*, and embrace the propos'd League. You will provide against all these Inconveniences better than I, and let me know after what manner 'tis his Majesty's Pleasure I carry my self in all this matter.

Monsieur *de Wit* ask'd me, if I had no Answer to the Advice he gave me of a Treaty between *England* and *Spain*, and as you have said nothing of it to me,

I suppose there's nothing in it. He told me afterwards, if the King did not take care of the Preservation of *Portugal*, 'twould be lost thro' the Incapacity of that King and his Ministers, the most able being banish'd and remov'd from the Counsel with the Queen; that the prime Minister, who is the Count *de Castel Major*, is a young Man without Experience, the Secretary of State, who is his Confident, a very inconsiderable Person, whom he knew, he having been an Ambassador in this Country.

That all the Provinces have such an ill Opinion of their Affairs, as, being push'd on by the *India Companies*, disposes them to come easily to a Rupture with that Kingdom under colour of *Conchin*. That he knew very well 'twas for the King's and the States Interest that it be not overwhelm'd, that he could think but of two Expedients to ward such a Blow, which Don *Esteven de Gamarre* and his Faction drive at, that the King of *Portugal* should, by means of his Majesty, send the Count *Miranda* Ambassador into *Holland*, to adjust the Differences now depending; and the other, that there be some Person at *Lisbon*, who, if possible, may from him inspire a better Conduct than what has hitherto appear'd in that Kingdom; of whose Negotiation his Majesty being afterwards inform'd by me, you may thereon take your Measures to prevent the Effects of Don *Esteven de Gamarre's* Machinations, and he promises nothing should be done against *Portugal*, till its Affairs are in a better Posture. I answer'd, I would inform you of his Thoughts, and let him know the Answer, which I desire you would write me, and be pleas'd to let me tell you, Monsieur *de Wit* is a Man of a very nice and exact Understanding; and believing the Advice he gave me from *England* deserves some Answer, and he having none, will be more backward to give me any for the future. I desire you would also write me whether you take *de Bloemendaels* Negotiation to be *a propos*, because 'tis rumour'd at the *Hague*, that the Elector of *Brandenburgh*

is agreed on every Point with the——— and I observe that they admire I say nothing of it.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:

November 16, 1663.

I Was very glad to hear, by your Dispatch of the 8th, that the Difference between *Holland* and *Zealand* was in a fair way of Accommodation, that one might be almost sure it cannot fail, since of the six Cities of *Zealand*, the four principal have already agreed with *Holland* as to her Pretences about the publick Prayers; I thought so wise a Man as the *Sieur de Wit* would not put his Province upon attempting any thing, in which he could not bring her off with Reputation. Those who do not love the *United Provinces*, will not now have any Reason to rejoice in the Divisions which they hop'd would rise between them, and which they had already begun to foment and sharpen. As for me, who desire only their Prosperity, which consists chiefly in their Union, I was very glad to understand this Storm which threatned them was so soon blown over.

I should have been very curious to know what Proposals *Downing* made the *Sieur de Wit*; but since he push'd the Matter no farther, we may, as you say, suppose he did not think the said *Sieur de Wit* was in any Disposition to answer him. If any thing further happens in it, I believe you will soon be inform'd.

Beware how you give into what the said *Downing* told you of the Report at *London*, on the *Medium* propos'd there to the *Sieur de Cominge*, to see you in a third Place; it does not consist with my Dignity, and would be injurious to your Character.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
November 23, 1663.

DE Lionne read your Dispatch of the 15th Instant to me, and it satisfies part of my Doubts on the Inconveniencies I had reason to be apprehensive of, from the Project drawn up by Monsieur de Wit; but it not giving me Satisfaction as to all, nor the chief, and it being here the greatest Affair a-foot, I should be glad, before I acquaint you with my last Resolutions, to examine it so maturely, that I may be in no danger of giving such Orders, as may in the Sequel be entirely prejudicial. The Sieur de Wit, if he inclines to serve me, as I am assur'd he does, will advise to it, rather than be surpriz'd at any small delay, which will give me Means to do every thing with better Grounds; and you may tell him, I am now busy'd in giving Orders to set forth, as expeditiously as possible, what is the Queen's Right as eldest by the first Wife, even during the Life of the Prince her Brother, to certain Estates in *Flanders*, according to past Examples, and the Laws and Customs of the Country. In this the Sieur de Wit, who is so intelligent in all things, might perhaps furnish me with good Memoirs, of which I should be very glad. As soon as this Business is done, the Consequence of which you know, I shall not lose a Minutes time to acquaint you with my Intentions, that you may conclude the Affair. 'Tis true, we forget to give you an Answer to what the Sieur de Wit told you of a Negotiation between *Spain* and *England*; and you may assure him, I am very sensible of the obliging way of Proceeding which I observe he takes in all things relating to my Interest, as also of the Sincerity and Openness of Heart, with which he talks to you of all things; I shall always behave my self in the same manner with Respect to him, and have the same Confidence in him.

As to the Negotiation between the *Spaniards* and the *English*, I have learn'd from another Hand, and a very good one, that there's an *Irishman* at *London*, a Servant to the King of *Spain*, who pretends to make a new League between the two Kings, excluding the King of *Portugal*; that he has already gone from *England* to *Madrid* on that Errand, and that when he return'd to *London*, 'twas resolv'd to send an Ambassador to *Spain*. The choice fell on *Fausbaw*, who was just come back from *Portugal*. The *Sieur de Comenge* has Orders narrowly to watch this Affair, and oppose it as much as he can, but he has not hitherto been able to dive farther into it; in the mean time, I perceive the Disposition of the *English* Councils is more favourable now to the *Spaniards*, than 'tis contrary to them, insomuch that a word has not been said a long time to the *Sieur de Comenge*, of a Treaty which the King of *England* seem'd before to desire passionately to renew with me; to which I am very well dispos'd, for the Reason I order'd you lately to tell the said *Sieur de Wit*, which he approv'd of, and even desir'd me to push the thing as far as I could, to break the Measures of the *Spaniards*. I am very glad the *Sieur de Wit* acknowledges and avows all the States to whom the greatness of the House of *Austria* ought to give Umbrage, should desire and contribute to it, that *Portugal* be not overwhelm'd, and that the States of *Holland* is of this Number. And indeed, when *Spain* is free from this Occupation, she cannot seek for any other elsewhere, but what will be prejudicial to the States, who ought not to flatter themselves she has entirely lost the remembrance and resentment of the Foundation of their Republick, formerly a part of that Body, the rest of which is still under her Dominion. In the mean while return the *Sieur de Wit* my Thanks for the two Advices he gave you as to the Affairs of *Portugal*; the first of which, agrees entirely with those I receive from time to time by indirect Ways, they all

speaking of the Weakness of that King's Council, and the Misfortunes into which he's likely to fall thro' the absence of his wisest and perhaps his faithfullest Ministers, who have been remov'd from the Administration with the Queen Regent. But as I have been inform'd, 'twill be very difficult to recall them, on account of the Jealousie and Suspicions they have rais'd in the King, that the Queen has more Affection and Esteem for the Prince, his Brother. I cannot put in Practice what the said *Sieur de Wit* advises me, to keep a Person on purpose at *Lisbon*, who may from me inspire the Ministers with a better Conduct than they shew at present, for I should in that break the *Pyrenean Treaty*; but other means shall not be wanting, without my appearing in it, to insinuate to them what's to be done by the Interposition of *French Officers*.

As to what he says of the Embassy of the Count de *Miranda*, I shall write to the *Sieur de Comenge*, that he let the *Portugal Ambassador* who is at *London* know, 'twill be for his Master's Service to send that Count to the *Hague*, and I believe 'twill be easie to get him to do it without further delay.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
November 28, 1663.

BEFORE I answer your Majesty's Dispatch of the 23d of this Month, I must inform you, that for these last four Days the *Spanish Ambassador* has been very busie with the Chief of the States of this Province since their meeting, and has had a long Conference with *Monsieur de Wit*. I made an excuse to visit him about other Affairs to find out the Subject of it, and in effect he told me that Ambassador continu'd his Instances to conclude the propos'd League, that he try'd all means to gain the principal Members of this Assembly, that he urg'd him to propose it, and had vi-
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sited him on that score. But to all the Reasons he alledg'd, to perswade him of what Advantage it would be to the States, he only reply'd he would propose it with all his Heart, but could not do it without the knowledge of *France*, by whose Junction this League would be much stronger; that it were to be wish'd *England* would also enter into it, and the Lords the States being leagu'd with these three Crowns, would on their own Part be much more secure; that the general Guaranty in the Treaty made with your Majesty impos'd this Necessity on them, and they could never depart from it: That to this *Gamarre* answer'd, they must have a care of having any Communication with *France* on this Subject, that the King his Master had demanded of your Majesty to be included in the Guaranty granted to the States, but was refus'd, by which it appear'd nothing was to be expected from you but what would disturb the Peace which was by this League intended to be procur'd for the seventeen Provinces; but he could assure him, *England* would do what he desir'd, and he might depend upon it. That this Conference was spent in arguing the Case by both sides, without coming to any Agreement; that the next Day *Downing* came to him, and after some Discourse on other Affairs, he told him, he was inform'd Proposals had been made him on the part of *Spain*, which ought not to be neglected, that the States would find their Security in it, and *England* would support them. That on this Overture he agreed with the said *Downing*, the Proposals were advantageous and he lik'd them; but he thought, that as the Intervention of *England* strengthen'd them, that of *France* would render them still more considerable; that 'twas for that reason only he thought, they ought to be communicated to her, that tho' the Lords the States did it in compliance with the late Treaty, they ought to do it by their private Treaties; and he gave me to understand his Design was to evade the said Proposals. That his Language was the same to such of the States as had

talk'd of them to him, and to put them off of the Engagements into which *Spain* would draw them, he set forth the value of those they had already made with your Majesty.

Since I receiv'd your Majesty's Dispatch the said *Sieur de Wit* came to see me, and in this Visit I enumerated at length all the Reasons your Majesty ought to weigh on the propos'd Project, and endeavour'd to do it so, that he might not conceive any Distrust by this Delay, but rather take it to be an Effect of your Majesty's Prudence and fair Dealing, who resolving religiously to keep the Treaties you make, was at the trouble to examine every thing before you came to a Resolution, to foresee all the Inconveniences, and even consult those thereon whom you thought to be in your Interest, for which Reason I had Orders to demand his Opinion; in the mean while, you had order'd the Queen's Rights to be made out in *France*, to the Estates that may one Day belong to her in case of the Death of the King and Prince of *Spain*.

He receiv'd this Proceeding of your Majesty as an obliging Mark of your Confidence in him, and after having shewn me how sensible he was of it, he answer'd, he had not deferr'd 'till then to inquire into the Queen's Rights as to *Flanders*. That he had consulted the History, the Customs and Laws of the Country, to inform himself of the Course of Successions, and that in all he had seen, and all his Friends had reported to him, he could not meet with any Instance since *Maximilian*, which gave any Pretence to your Majesty to a Claim on the ten Provinces before the Prince of *Spain's* Death; that 'twas true, in a District of *Brabant* there was a Custom which made the Daughters by a first Wife Heirs, and excluded the Males by a second, but that was between private Persons; and that he could find no Example of this Custom taking place in all Successions to Fiefs that were formerly holden of the Crown; that if your Majesty could give such a Succession any lawful Title by Marriage Contracts, Wills,

Wills, Laws, or Examples, he would not be against complying with it in the propos'd Project, but that it was not so, and he thought you so just as not to require any thing of the States against Order and ancient Custom; that 'twas a new thing, which had not been mention'd in former Projects, wherein your Majesty's Claim was always Postpon'd, 'till after the Death of the King and Prince of *Spain*; that he perceiv'd more and more and admir'd on this Occasion your Majesty's Prudence and Application in your Affairs, by taking time seriously to consider things before you came to a Resolution, that you might have no cause to repent of it afterwards; that the present Affair was of such a Nature as requir'd the taking judicious Precautions, of which he could not but approve, but that he was oblig'd to put me in Mind of the Discourse we had had some Days before, in which he shew'd me Delys might prejudice the Design of this new League; that the meeting of this present Assembly made him wish, and even think it absolutely necessary, that your Majesty would come to a Resolution before the 20th of the next Month, when they were to break up, that before they separated he might engage his Friends in this League, and disengage them from that propos'd by *Spain*, or seek out some honourable Means to break off this Design, without leaving any cause of Animosity behind; that after having prest and warm'd them, as he had hitherto done, if any Coldness should appear on our part, they would draw Consequences from it which would create Jealousies, and make 'em enter into ill Engagements out of which it will not be easie to draw them; that he pray'd me, knowing the nature of this State, to represent to your Majesty of how great Importance it was to manage the good Dispositions of such as were the principal Members, and to lose no time in it. Your Majesty will know better than I what strength there is in all these Reasons, and I having nothing to add, but supposing I have enlarg'd sufficiently thereon in my Dispatch to Monsieur de Li-

one of the 15th Instant, I shall now wait for your Majesty's Orders as to my future Conduct with Monsieur *de Wit* in this Negotiation. I must not omit telling your Majesty that he seem'd very well pleas'd with the Trust repos'd in him by you, in acquainting him with the Affairs of *England*, *Portugal*, and the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and the Umbrage he had conceiv'd by the Secretie that had been observ'd in them hitherto is now remov'd.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
December 6, 1663.

YOUR Dispatch of the 28th of the last Month contains a great many important Particulars, worthy very serious Reflections. I make no Question of the Truth of what *Downing* said to the *Sieur de Wit*, since you had it from the latter, and that I believe he acts sincerely with me, in return for my frank and ingenuous way of Proceeding with him; But if it had come from any body but the *Sieur de Wit*, I should have doubted much whether *Downing* would have gone so far, and I can hardly believe, now he has done it, 'twas with his Master's Knowledge, and by his Order, because he has given me such Assurance of his Desire to enter into a close Alliance with me. I shall soon know the Truth of it without exposing the *Sieur de Wit* any way, that I may provide a Remedy if 'tis Necessary. I am very glad the *Sieur de Wit* took my Reason rightly, and applauded my Conduct, when you let him know that to prevent repenting one Day of too much Precipitation in an Affair of the last Importance, I should seriously consider Things, and examine even the most minute Circumstances, before I came to any Resolution, and sent you my last Orders. I will endeavour so to order it, that you may receive them before the end of this Month, when the Assembly of the

the States of *Holland* are to break up. In the mean while I will tell you, that I believe, as well as the *Sieur de Wit*, there's no Instance since *Maximilian*, which Establishes in the Person of the Sovereigns of *Flanders* the Succession of the Daughters by the first Marriage, in prejudice of the Males of the second, because the Case never has happened in all that time to have this Right contested; but before the said *Maximilian*, we have already found some Examples in favour of Daughters by solemn Decrees in the same Dispute. I shall improve the Advice you give me, that the Count *de Miranda* and the *Portugal* Ambassador in *England* are not well together, and find out some way to let them at *Lisbon* know how necessary 'tis the Count *Miranda* returns forthwith to the *Hague*.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: December 11, 1663.

THE Count *d'Estades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has orders from the King his Master to declare to your Lordships, the Pleasure with which his Majesty understood the good Dispositions you shew'd for the Restitution of the Estates belonging to the Order of *Maltha*; and as you in that have shewn your Value for his Majesty's Recommendation, so his Majesty still promises himself from your Friendship, that you will come to such a Resolution in this Affair, as shall give him cause to be contented, and to make you suitable Returns upon Occasion: The said Ambassador has on this account nothing further to desire of your Lordships, only, that you will hear the Report of the Commissioners you appointed for the Decision of this Affair, that

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being fully inform'd of it, you may, according to your accustom'd Prudence, come to a final Determination in it. Done at the *Hague* this 11th of December, 1663.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
December 13, 1663.

JUST as I receiv'd your Majesty's last Dispatch of the sixth of this Month, Monsieur *de Wit* came to see me, shewing me by that with what Impatience he expected to be inform'd of what you resolv'd on as to the Project, and supposing this Post would bring me Instructions thereon, I gave him to understand this Affair was of so great Consequence your Majesty might well take up more time to be fully satisfy'd, before you declare your self, that you gave me hopes of it by the next Post; but in the mean time, I had Orders to assure him, whatever Resolution you should take you would in no wise injure the Interest of the States, and only keep what you should legally acquire, and that too with so much Moderation as to be willing to part with some of it, to prevent the Jealousie they might conceive of your aggrandizing your self, and would comply with all the Mediums which could be thought of to preserve their Friendship; and he having hitherto appear'd a very proper Instrument to insinuate a good Opinion of your Majesty into Mens Minds, you continu'd to hope he would not refuse to employ himself to convince them of your good Intentions in this, and to set forth the Advantages and Obligation of the late Treaty. I talk'd thus to him to soften him, foreseeing he would certainly draw ill Consequences from these Delays; and indeed, he reply'd, the present Difficulty was a new Thing, which had not been urg'd in two Projects that had been drawn up, wherein 'twas always declar'd the falling of the Succession should be understood

understood to be at the Death of the King and Prince of *Spain* jointly, without pretending that the Queen, as Daughter by a first Wife, should exclude the Prince; that this was agreeable to Custom, and that he was oblig'd further to tell me on this Subject, that having caus'd others to examine, and having himself examin'd what Examples there might be of the like Successions in History, he could find none from the first Dukes of *Burgundy* to the present Times, which might justify such a Claim; that two Projects in the same sense had been approv'd of by your Majesty, that on this Basis he made the Proposals to his Friends, had brought them to agree to them, and that they look'd upon it as a thing done; that the contrary hapning, he should be expos'd to the Reproaches of his Friends, who would blame him for abusing them, and by this means they might be gain'd over to the adverse Party; that he should have avoided these Inconveniences, if I had at first answer'd his Proposals as I had then done; that I might have heard the *Spanish* Ambassador presented two Memorials last Week, to demand a Committee to examine some very important Propositions he had to make, that he could not hinder it last *Tuesday*, the President of the Week being in the *Spanish* Interest, so this Committee was appointed, and himself to be one of 'em; that *Gamarre* afterwards came to him, and represented to him the Advantages the State would receive by the propos'd League, the Mischiefs which might arise from rejecting it in the present Conjunction of Affairs; and that he reply'd, he was ready to obey his Masters, but was oblig'd to represent to them, under what Engagements they lay to *France* and *England*; that his Propositions ought to be examin'd, and even communicated to the two Kings, that the Committee could not deliberate thereon this Week; with which Reply *Gamarre* was very ill pleas'd, perceiving he would disswade the Assembly from it, and evade his Propositions; however he could not prevent the proposing of the Affair the next Week, that he doubted not the Delay
had

had so disgusted his Friends, and this League had so fair a Face of greater Security for the States, that every Body would join in with it, and whatever design he had for your Majesty's Interest, to get 'em to come to another Resolution, he was afraid he should not be able to accomplish it; because, in effect, there was no answering the Reasons that might be infer'd from your Majesty's great Power by the Conquest of the *Low-Countries*, and the fear your Neighbours ought to be in on that Score. To all which I answer'd, this Delay ought not to alarm him, because the Affair requir'd it, and himself could not blame it in a Matter of such Importance; that this way of Proceeding should be taken for a new Proof of your Majesty's fair Dealing, in not being willing to promise any thing rashly, nevertheless, 'twas requisite that his Friends Coldness should be so provided against that it might not produce an ill Effect as to *Gamarre's* Proposal; and the means should be try'd, which he has already made use of to put it off, to see what time may bring forth; that this League was not of so great Advantage to the State as the People might imagine, and that he who was more clear sighted would better judge, whether in the Declension *Spain* was threatned with, as he allow'd with me, by the Brigues and Factions preparing in all the Parts of which her Greatness consists, such an Assistance was to be depended on against the Interests of a great King, whose Friendship all *Europe* courted; that I left it to him to consider, after the Defection of *Munster*, what Resentment your Majesty might be capable of, if the States should go off from an Union in which they were newly engag'd by the late Treaty, and to what Revenge it might transport him; that he might, against the imaginary Advantages of this League, set those that would arise from a general Guaranty, which had already sav'd 'em from a War with *England*; in fine, that I thought, whatever your Majesty's Resolution thereon should be, Expedients might be found out to put an End to their Fear, and that they would be

more

more safe in your Royal Word, than in all the Leagues propos'd by Spain.

I wait for your Majesty's Orders to speak to him more positively, when you have taken your final Resolution; in the mean time, I thought I ought, as to himself in particular, to flatter him with the same Confidence which he has shewn in the whole Course of this Affair, and with some hopes for the State, and to let him at the same time reflect on the Resentments 'twas likely your Majesty would shew if they took the wrong side. I shall watch *Gamarro* in all the Brigues he makes to get his Propositions accepted of, and forget nothing to cross him in it. I give your Majesty the naked State of Affairs, that you may form a Judgment of 'em the better, and afterwards let me know how I am to govern my self, in which I shall religiously obey your Commands.

Downing has presented a Memorial, complaining of some Depredations committed on *English* Ships in *Guinney* by the Ships of the *Dutch West-India Company*, for which he demands Satisfaction. Monsieur *de Wit*, in telling me of this Memorial, took Occasion to confirm to me all he had told me the said *Downing* should say to him of the League. I leave it to your Majesty to perceive by that what Credit is to be given to this Discourse, I can only assure you the *Sieur de Wit* seems to me to act very sincerely.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
December 20, 1663.

IN the first Place, as to the Difficulty which offers it, being a new Thing which was not mention'd in the two Projects which had been drawn up before, wherein 'twas always declar'd that the falling of the Succession ought to be understood to be at the Death of the

the King and Prince of *Spain* jointly; this is so far from being true, I mean, that 'tis so declar'd in my Project, that if the *Sieur de Wit* will get his Province to pass it, you may sign it without staying for any new Order, and I will immediately send you the Ratification; for if you have well observ'd, when the falling of the Succession to the Crown of *Spain* is mention'd, there's not a word said of the King nor Prince; and if the Queen, as Daughter of the first Wife, has a Right by Laws and Customs to any Part of *Flanders*, the Succession ought to be taken in her Favour, on the Death of the King her Father; wherefore 'tis not a Novelty which I have since started, and I ought rather to be thank'd for not hiding any of my secret Thoughts from the *Sieur de Wit*. In the second Place, he tells you that having caus'd others to examine, and having himself examin'd what Examples there might be of the like Successions in History, he had found none from the First Dukes of *Burgundy* to the present Times, which might justify such a Claim: And I having caus'd the same Examiners to be made, find there are in several Countries Laws and Customs very favourable to the Queen's Right, and the said *Sieur de Wit* having often declar'd to you, that in such Case the Lords the States wou'd not do me any Injury, I have therefore reason to put him in mind of his Word, and he has none to make the proposal to his Friends on a different Basis; as he now says, and that looking upon it as a thing done, if the contrary happens he shou'd be expos'd to the Reproaches of his Friends, who would blame him for abusing them; he might have added, if he knew it as well as I, who have receiv'd Informations from *Madrid* it self, that one among them has already gone farther, for he has got advice to be given to the King of *Spain*, to hasten the Payment of the Queen's Portion, whatever else is left unpaid, and even giving for a Reason of this Advice, that I should for default of Payment ground great Pretensions to the *Low-Countries*. He told you,

In the third Place, That the President of the Week being in the *Spanish* Interest, he could not hinder a Committee's being appointed to treat with *Gamarre* on the Instances he uses with the States for a League of the seventeen Provinces, neither that he should be able to prevent the Affair's being propos'd, and that he doubted not the Delay had so disgust'd his Friends, and this League had so fair a Face of greater Security for the States, that every Body would join in with it, and whatever Design he had for my Interest to get 'em to come to another Resolution, he was afraid he should not be able to accomplish it, because in effect there was no answering the Reasons which might be infer'd from my too great Power by the Conquest of the *Low-Countries*, and the fear my Neighbours ought to be in on that score.

Nothing could be more judiciously and forcibly said than what you reply'd, by touching, as you did, certain capital Points, as the present Weakness of *Spain*, the Defection of *Munster*, the Resentment I might have of such a Fault as that, and how much my general Guaranty, which had already sav'd their State a War with *England*, made 'em more safe than the League propos'd, the Advantages of which consisted only in the Imagination: I shall now nevertheless add what for the present you must keep to your self, that if the States-General, after having courted and solicited for my Friendship, Alliance and Protection a Year together, and having obtain'd it with all sort of general, and particular Advantage, are capable of doing me such an ill Turn, and that at a Time when I am willing for their Sakes, and out of a Disinterestedness which has few Examples, fairly to agree with them, that large Estates which may one Day fall lawfully to me and my Son shall become free, the Affair shall not pass like that of *Munster*, and the least I shall do to shew my Resentment of so dishonourable a Proceeding, will be to undo all I have done by that Treaty of Alliance, to
forbid

forbid all Ships belonging to their State to Trade in my Kingdom, to enter into the closest Union with England, which I can do to Night or to Morrow, and put into the Hands of the *English* all the Commerce my own Subjects cannot carry on, having not yet a sufficient Number of Ships; but, as I have said, you must not open your self on the whole Contents of this Article to any one whatsoever, unless I write you to do it, on advice I shall receive of what passes concerning the said League.

To come now to the Fact, I confirm to you, that in the Treaty you negotiate my Intention is honest and sincere, and such as the States can justly desire; if I had other Thoughts, should not I declare 'em to such a Man as you, to whom I know very well I may trust my greatest Secrets? But I would not have the *Sieur de Wit* do what he pleases with me, and whenever he pleases, by frightening me with this League, my Affairs are not at such a Pass as that: I know, and am sensible, my Friendship is to be coveted, and more useful to those that have it, than theirs is to me, and that those to whom I have granted it lose more in losing it, than I shall. I will give them no just Occasion to depart from it, and that's enough; for if I would have hearken'd to the Proposals made my late Cousin, Cardinal *Mazarin*, by Don *Lewis de Haro* at the *Pyrenees*, at a Time when I had no Alliance with the States, and my Resentment for their Defection of *Munster* was still warm, they had not been now in a Condition to think of Leaguings with *Spain* against me. The *Spaniards* then urg'd me to unite with them to reduce their State, offering to give me an Equivalent in *Flanders* for all the Conquests that should be made jointly in their State.

I heartily wish the *Sieur de Wit* would answer per-
tinently to the five or six following Questions; What Necessity is there for the States, at this time, to make this League with *Spain*? The *Sieur de Wit* will not
answer

answer to this, they are 'afraid I should attack the *United-Provinces*, and they would secure the Assistance of *Spain*; he can only say they are afraid, I should attack the *Low-Countries* under the Dominion of the King of *Spain*, and they are concern'd to defend them, to prevent their having so great a Power in their Neighbourhood; he has already said as much to you in pretty plain Terms.

Wherefore the League is only made for the Advantage of *Spain*, the States having nothing to fear. Upon which, one may very well ask of him, why the States would at this time enter into a Treaty to maintain the *Spaniards* in *Flanders*? Do they believe *Spain*, if there was no Treaty, would refuse their Assistance in time of need, and when they should think proper to give it, tho' there was no such Treaty? Will the States have it less in their Power to succour *Flanders*, if they think fit to do it? In the mean time, is it not for the States Advantage to remain always Masters of their Resolutions? Will not the *Spaniards* be even more oblig'd to them for such voluntary Assistance? Is it not Prudence in them to keep themselves free to take that Side which shall be most for their Interest, as the Junctures of Affairs may offer? Will not their Friendship and Union be the more courted by the *Spaniards*, if they were not become necessary by a Treaty, by which they'll get nothing, but disoblige me without any Occasion, and urge me to take measures and enter into close Engagements with other Princes?

I have nothing to say against the States reserving an inward and secret Intention to assist the *Spaniards* in the *Low-Countries*, if they find I attack them without any Right; but to oblige themselves at this time, without having any regard to the Reasons the Parties may have, if any such like difference should happen, which is very uncertain, and that against a King who is their Friend, and designs to do considerably for them in this Affair, is what their Prudence will

will not doubtless permit, and they must strike the Blow before one can believe they are capable of coming to such an Extremity. Tho' you should say all this, or whatever you think you ought to say to the *Sieur de Wit*; I would not he should infer from your Discourse, that 'tis not to be doubted but I shall carry a War into the *Low-Countries* on the King of *Spain's* Death, as indeed I have no Thoughts of it. He should rather imagine, what is the truth of the Case, that if it so happens, provided the *Spaniards* would do me no injustice in depriving the Queen of her Dower and the whole Succession, I shall be very ready to come to any reasonable Accommodation, and hearken to the States, if they are not then engag'd in any League against me; which is still a new and strong Reason you are to make use of to dissuade them from this step, which will presently exclude them from a Mediation, wherein they may be very useful to the publick Good and Peace.

To conclude, two things are to be done; One, that the *Sieur de Wit* and his Friends give me time, answerable to the necessity of the Affair, to prove the Queen's Right, before they proceed to sign a new Treaty; or if they had rather sign it without further delay, that the Terms of the Treaty be so concerted, that they may not prejudice the Queen's Right too much, if after Examination I can prove them to be plain; and to that end *Mediums* should be found out, neither the Queen's Claim nor my desisting should not be mention'd; and this is entirely agreeable to what the said *Sieur de Wit* has said to you, and what you wrote me in your Dispatch of the 5th of *November*, that if after the Death of the King my Father-in-Law, I had good Reason to claim any thing in some of the Provinces of *Flanders*, 'twas not just to exclude me by a Treaty.

That the Province of *Holland* would not be against ('tis what the *Sieur de Wit* said himself) reducing the time of the falling of the Succession to the *Low-Countries*

tries on this account to the Death of the King of Spain only, without staying for that of the Prince, and now he seems to change his Opinion so justly and solidly grounded, by pretending he has himself study'd the Matter, and cannot find I have any Title, of which he must at least acknowledge I am better inform'd.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
December 20, 1663.

AFTER the Post was come which brought me your Majesty's Dispatch of the 14th, the Sieur de *Wu* did not fail to send to me to demand an Audience, and he having been last at my House, I thought I was oblig'd to go to his now. I told him, I understood they were in *France* still at work to clear your Majesty's Rights in *Flanders*, that things had already been discover'd which were very advantageous to em, and that your Majesty had put off coming to a final Resolution upon the Project 'till you were fully inform'd of every thing, and that then you would let me know what Answer I was to make him, so that I had nothing to add this Post to what I told him the last. He reply'd, he had then perceiv'd by my Discourse your Majesty's Thoughts were very much alter'd as to the Project from what they were, and that now nothing was to be expected from it, at which he was extremely surpriz'd, because it seem'd to him to be more for your Interest, than the Claim it appear'd you had already form'd to the *Netherlands*; that he would tell me freely, by way of Conversation, and as from himself, whatever had come into his Thoughts on this Subject, to shew me the Sincerity of his Intentions in an Affair which he thought the most Important of any this Age would produce.

He began with your Majesty's Right to the *Low-Countries*, and did his utmost to convince me, that

even after the Death of the Prince of *Spain*, as 'twas contain'd in the Marriage Contract and the Renunciation so often declar'd in it, it could not be maintain'd; that 'twas the Opinion of all who had examin'd the Matter, that supposing the Renunciation to be null, the Queen as born of the first Wife could never exclude the Prince; that ever since there were Counts and Dukes of *Brabant*, there were no Examples where the Males by a second Venture were not preferr'd to the Females of a first; and to justify it, he gave me an Extract taken from History on this Subject, which I send your Majesty: That to prevent his Friends seeing thro' this Matter, he had spoken of it as a doubtful Business, and which might bear a Decision to your Majesty's Advantage, in order to engage them in the Design of the Project, and that tho' he seem'd by it to have prov'd to the States they were in some manner secure against their Fears of your Majesty's aggrandizing your self, yet they saw that Security was ill enough grounded, because it depended on the setting up a Republick, which appear'd to be a Work almost impossible; and tho' by the Concurrence of all the Accidents which cause a Revolution in a State, there may be some certainty in this, they were very well satisfy'd it could not be of long duration, for want of Chiefs, and thro' the Levity of the People of which the Government is compos'd, as also on account of the different Interests of Trade and Religion in the ten and the seven Provinces, which render'd them almost incompatible in the same Union, like that which the propos'd Cantoning would produce; and that thro' this Incompatibility, and the very Inclination of several Cities which are already *French*, 'tis but too plain that in a little time they would be very willing to yield themselves up to *France*, or would be oblig'd to do it by Arms, or for Peace sake. Thus your Majesty might easily become Master of the *Netherlands*, without infringing this last Treaty, and the States would be less expos'd to the Invasion of a Neighbouring Prince, by the

the care they took to fortifie their Frontier Places reserv'd to them by the said Treaty; that since these Considerations could not prevail with your Majesty, and that you refus'd the Conditions he had taken the Liberty to propose to me, he perceiv'd his Friends put an ill Construction upon it, and were satisfy'd there was a design to quarrel with *Spain*, right or wrong, about the Succession; that the Reports which were spread of new Levies under colour of the Affair of *Rome*, made them believe the Design was to be ready arm'd when time should give occasion to such a Dispute; that he could not long conceal the Judgment he made on your Majesty's way of acting, but that as soon as it should be known the States Sentiments would go much farther than his, especially when they were set on by the *Spaniards*, who would be sure to represent your Majesty as a Prince full of Ambition, and covetous of his Neighbours Estates, whom they'll consider as already advanc'd to the Frontiers, and that not only the State would recieve the League, but hearken to all the Propositions that should be made on the Emperor's side, who, as the *Infanta's* Husband, wou'd Court her to that Purpose, and engage her in all Extremities to avoid her Ruin, which he takes to be certain by this new Pretension.

I represented to him, he put too harsh a Construction on the Time your Majesty took to deliberate seriously about an Affair which he himself thought of the last Consequence, and that the Zeal he had hitherto shewn for your Interest might go farther, without prejudicing those of the States whose Minister he was, and 'twould not be prudent in him to fall in with Measures which might have bloody and dangerous Consequences, and even set his Friends against him. That there was still room to hope your Majesty would not refuse his Proposals, since I had not yet receiv'd any negative Answer, tho' to maintain the Justice of your Pretensions, you should, as he said, be oblig'd to quarrel with *Spain*. I was of Opinion the

Lords the States might find as great Advantages with your Majesty, as those that would arise by the propos'd Partition, which he thought necessary to cover their Frontiers; that the accepting the League and the other Extremities seem'd to me to be very dangerous for them, considering the present Constitution of Affairs in Germany; the Condition *Spain* is in, that wherein is your Majesty, together with the late Engagements into which they enter'd with you by the last Treaty; that I left it to him to make his Reflections thereon, and hop'd he would not allarm any one without any Occasion.

He reply'd, he knew the Event of such a Proceeding might be dangerous; that 'twou'd draw after it a long and bloody War; that the Empire and *Spain* were weak, *France* mighty in the Person of the King, full of Riches, and a numerous and martial Nobility; that greater Evils might happen to them, than that with which they were threaten'd by this Neighbourhood so dreaded by them; but that it wou'd not at least come upon them so soon, that if the Lords the States did not provide against this Conquest, 'twou'd be too easie for your Majesty, insomuch that they might lock upon it as already made; but by entring into Alliances to oppose it, 'twou'd be deferr'd some Years; that Time sometimes brought Revolutions about, which chang'd the face of the most happy Affairs, which was experienc'd under *Charles* the Fifth, in two Enterprizes form'd by him, one against *Marseilles*, the other against *Metz*, which both Miscarry'd, tho' the Factions which then divided *France* made all the World believe they wou'd both succeed; that the same might happen to your Majesty's Designs, and that the States by all the Rules of Prudence had no other Parry to take, which to promote they wou'd do all that lay in their Power; that he knew the Humour of the People of the United Provinces so well, and the fear of Subjection had made such an Impression on them, that there was nothing in the World of which they were not capable of Enterprizing to avoid it, and in doing it they wou'd not in the least in-

fringe

fringe the late Treaties; that 'twas dangerous to make any Proposition to them to dissuade them from it; that all he cou'd do would be to defer declaring to them his Apprehensions of your Majesty's Designs, but after he had once done it there wou'd be no going back, nor endeavouring to bring them again into the good Dispositions his several Journeys to the Cities had brought them. Thus, Sir, finish'd our Conversation, in which I again urg'd the Reasons your Majesty will have seen in my former Dispatches, which I shall not here repeat. Your Majesty will perceive Monsieur *de Wit* is a Man who sees clear, and is not easily to be led away, when he thinks the Interest of the State is concern'd, and that of his own Reputation, he having advanc'd far in the Business without much Communication, and having had the boldness to do it of himself, and without order, of which I fear *Gamarre* will make fine Work; he has presented his Memorial to the Committee, in which he offers all the Trade, and all the other Advantages these People can desire of *Spain*; but it happens, that by addressing himself solely to the Province of *Holland*, and not to the States-General, the other Provinces take it ill, and that has given Monsieur *de Wit* an Opportunity to put off their coming to a Resolution, by saying, it must be communicated to the other Provinces. I have taken hold of this Opportunity to heighten this Contempt, and exasperate them that they may be the more difficult: But I doubt not when they know what has pass'd concerning this Project they will make as disadvantageous a Judgement of your Majesty's Intentions, as the Sieur *de Wit* imagines. Your Majesty knows your Interests better than any one, and will tell how to take those Measures wherein they are best Establish'd, either in the Project propos'd, and the mild and easie Means that seems to be offer'd for the Conquest of the *Netherlands*, or in the Justice of your Pretensions, by the Death of the King or Prince of *Spain*, and the Prosecution you'll be oblig'd to make of 'em by Arms against the Opposition of the State.

*From the Duke de Vendome to the Lords
the States-General of the United-Pro-
vinces of the Low-Countries: Janua-
ry 7, 1664.*

My Lords,

TH O' it does not seem Necessary for me to add any Recommendation to the Offices that will be us'd with your Excellencies in the King's Name, by my Lord Ambassador, on Account of the Prizes taken in the Red Sea by Captain *Laurence David*, under my Commission, however his Majesty's Council of State having declar'd them good Prize, and the Tenth consequently belonging to me according to the Laws and Ordormances of this Kingdom, I thought, it being a Matter wherein the particular Interest of my Post is concern'd, I might also address my self to your Excellencies with so much the less Difficulty, by how much the Interests of the Lords the States have been always had in singular Consideration by me, which makes me flatter my self you will also consider Mine on this Occasion, and to that effect will not take it ill, that in sending the said Decree of Council with the King's Orders, by an Express to the Lord Ambassador, I give him also this Letter in Charge to deliver to your Excellencies; most humbly to entreat you, as I now do, to order that the fifty Bales arising from the said Prize, which are seiz'd and stop'd with you, under Pretence that they are not Right in the Examen and Discussion made by the King's Council; be now deliver'd and restor'd to the Bearer, who has my Order to receive them, as you will be requir'd in the King's Name by the Lord Ambassador; and your Excellencies will your selves think it to be just and reasonable, if you will dive into the Matter, and seriously consider

consider all the Reasons that will be represented by the said Lord Ambassador; to which referring my self, I shall no longer herewith Interrupt your Excellencies, contenting my self only with assuring you, that I shall have all possible Gratitude for the speedy and favourable Issue of this Affair, and that I shall on all Occasions be careful and solicitous to shew that I am, with a great deal of Partiality,

My Lords,

Paris, January 7,
1664.

Your most humble Servant,

Cæsar de Vendome.

*From the King to the Count D'Estrades;
January 11, 1664.*

I Am very well pleas'd with the Care you took to visit the principal Cities of *Holland* and *North-Holland*, and to discourse your Friends about the Conferences *Gamarre* had with the States-Deputies before his Departure for *Brussells*; however, I was very glad to see *Batailler*, and to have had time enough to make an exact Inquiry into all the Queen's Rights, since the *Sieur de Wit* has agreed the Business shall not be mention'd till the next Meeting of the States of *Holland*, which is not to be till the 15th of the next Month; but there's also reason to suspect, that he expects in that time the Answer *Gamarre* will receive from *Madrid*; nevertheless, as 'tis uncertain what side the States will take, if, not to do my self too great a Prejudice, I cannot consent to all they may desire, 'tis convenient that you carry your self as you have hitherto done, and not be at too much Trouble to adjust the many Differences they have with other Princes,

except that of *Portugal*, taking care however that they do not perceive by what Motive it is you act thus. I make no Answer to the Question the Prince of *Tarente* ask'd of you, only that I don't know what Army the Elector of *Brandenburgh* has, nor how he will employ them. Perhaps I may, in a few Days know more of the said Elector's Intentions, in the mean time the said Prince may excuse himself from giving a positive Answer, on account of his being willing to know my Pleasure therein.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: January 24, 1664.

I Am very much surpriz'd the Court of *England* should be byass'd by the Sieur *Downing's* Opinion; 'tis certain he will never give any Advice tending to maintain the Union between the two Kings; 'tis a pitiful Fellow, very Seditious, and hates our Nation to the last Degree. I should have thought, that after he had been taken by *Cromwell* from being a School-master, and chosen by him to rail at the Royal Family in *Holland*, the King of *England* would rather have plac'd him on a Gibbet than in his Councils. He publishes every where in the Court of Madam the Princess Dowager, that the King has recall'd my Lord *Hollis*, his Ambassador in *France*, not being able to bear any longer the ill Usage he had met with from the King in *France*; he has further insinuated into several of the States, that there's nothing to be done with the King, that he behaves himself so haughtily, 'tis not to be born with, unless they were entirely subject to him; that the King his Master is not of that humour, and there's no likelihood of any Alliance between them. Either the Chancellor *Hyde* has alter'd his Mind, or is out of Favour since I parted. I know

know *Downing* stay'd eight Days after his Arrival in *England* without being able to obtain Audience, and the Chancellor has often talk'd to me of him, as a Person he did not value; however, I find the contrary by the Contest he has occasion'd, and you may depend upon it, he'll do worse if he can.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count D'Estrades: January 25, 1664.

I Can't tell whether I have ever inform'd you of the Discovery we have made, that the *Chigi's* are plotting with the good Cardinal of *Arragon*, whom they lead by the Nose, to make a League against the King, with the King his Master. We immediately dispatch'd away a Courier to *Madrid*, to inform our selves throughly of his Designs: The Courier return'd two Days ago, and reports that his Catholick Majesty has not only given his Royal Word to the Archbishop of *Ambrun* to assure the King, he will never enter into any League whatsoever against his Person or Interest, but has dispatch'd an Express to *Rome* to declare to the Pope, that if he did not turn *Castro* out of his Place to satisfy the King, he would protest against the ill Administration of his Relations and make 'em answerable for all the Mischiefs which may happen to Christendom, thro' the Refusal that has been so long made to give his Majesty Satisfaction. At the same time I gave Monsieur the Count *Strozzy* the King's Answer, to the Demand he made lately in behalf of the Emperor, of Assistance against the common Enemy. The said Count taking it for granted, that to prevent giving him any we would make use of so plausible, we might say lawful, an Excuse as the Obligation the King lyes under, to send a strong Army over the Mountains next Spring to bring him out of

of the *Affair of Rome* with Honour. I can't tell you whether the said Count was more pleas'd, or frighted, with the extraordinary Magnanimity of our young Monarch, when I told him from him, that without having any regard to that Obligation, his Majesty would, if 'twas desir'd, at the beginning of *March* send to *Hungary* 4000 Foot and 2000 Horse, and would pay all the Charge of the Maintenance of those Troops, as well in their March as during the whole Campaign.

Nothing can be added to the Value the said Count seem'd to set on so great an Offer, nor the Exaggerations he made of the Obligation his Master ought Eternally to lye under to his Majesty, and particularly at a Juncture when he had so fair a Pretext to excuse giving any Assistance; he also consider'd of himself the Wickedness of the Reports which have been rais'd against his Majesty, touching his Sentiments as to the War with the Infidels, and concluded, 'twas a good Example for the Pope, to shew him what he had greatest Reason, to do on this Occasion for the good of Christendom, and does not do it.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: January 29, 1664.

THE Count *d'Estades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, in Obedience to the positive Orders he receiv'd from the King his Master, represents to your Lordships, that his Majesty having, by a Decree of his Council of the 30th of *November* last, declar'd all the Merchandizes, Diamonds, Pearl, *China*-Ware, Guns, and other things taken and sav'd in the Red Sea by Captain *Laurence David*, good Prize, he hopes

' hopes from your Lordships Justice and Equity you
 ' will make no difficulty to release the said *Laurence Da-*
 ' *vid*, and order some Bales of Merchandize which have
 ' been seiz'd on a Petition of the *East-India* Company
 ' to be restor'd, particularly when your Lordship shall
 ' have seriously reflected on the Reasons that may in-
 ' duce you to it, as they are contain'd in the Memo-
 ' rial hereunto annex'd; and in as much as Monsieur
 ' the Duke de *Vandoms*, Peer, great Master and Super-In-
 ' tendant General of the Navigation and Trade of
 ' *France*, from whom the said *Laurence David* had his
 ' Commission, the Terms of which are not exceeded,
 ' has sent an Express hither to demand the Person of
 ' the said *David*, and some Bales of Merchandize, and
 ' that at *Antwerp* and else-where the Diamonds with
 ' what was most Precious in his Cargo were restor'd.
 ' at the first Instance the Agents of the said Duke
 ' made, the said Ambassador Extraordinary earnestly
 ' Intreats your Lordships to consider, on this Occasion,
 ' how warmly his Majesty has recommended this Af-
 ' fair, and to give Monsieur the Duke the Satisfaction
 ' due to him, that his Agents, who have no other Bu-
 ' siness here, may be presently dispatch'd, and carry with
 ' them the Effects of your Justice; and the Marks of
 ' the Affection your Lordships bear to the Interest of
 ' the King his Master. Done at the *Hague* the 29th
 ' of *January*, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

REASONS

REASONS to shew that Captain Laurence David, a Dutchman, ought to be put into his Majesty's Hands, together with the Goods taken by him from the Moors in the Red-Sea, or sav'd in the Wreck of a Ship arriving in the Road of the Isle of Piron.

TO lay down the Reasons on good Foundation, and deduce them in Order, the following Heads must be agreed to.

First, That the said Captain, tho' a *Hollander* by Nation, might set out a Ship with a *French* Commission, and sail with *French* Colours.

Secondly, Supposing the said Captain might set out a Ship with a *French* Commission, tho' himself a *Hollander*, he might by Vertue of the said Commission Trade or make War in the *East-India* Seas, notwithstanding the Edicts or Prohibitions in *Holland*.

Thirdly, That the said *Laurence David* set out his Ship, and navigated it with a *French* Commission and *French* Colours.

Fourthly, That whoever Arms, Navigates, and makes War with a Commission, cannot be deem'd a Pirate.

Fifthly, That every Privateer who takes Prizes at Sea, ought to give an Account only to him by whose Commission he arm'd, and took the said Prizes.

The first Article may be prov'd by several Examples, wherein the *Hollanders* have in like Cases arm'd by Vertue of Commissions from Foreign Princes, against other Princes ally'd to the Lords the States, without being molested, or been call'd to account for it.

' In the War between the *Venetians* and the *Turks*,
' *Dutch* Captains took every Day *Venetian* Commis-
' sions, and made War on the Grand Signior, who was
' ally'd with *Holland*.

' In the late War between *Sweden* and *Denmark*,
' tho' the States openly assisted the latter, several *Dutch*
' Ships serv'd with a *Swedish* Commission and *Swedish*
' Colours in the *Swedish* Fleet; wherefore there's no
' Law in *Holland* against taking a Commission from a
' Foreign Prince.

' And consequently the said *Laurence David*, tho' a
' *Hollander*, might arm with a *French* Commission, and
' sail with *French* Colours.

' There's still another Reason, taken from the 23d
' Article of the late Treaty of Alliance renew'd with
' *Holland*, which contains, that the Subjects of the
' States-General shall not be deem'd Aliens in *France*,
' nor be liable to Aliens Duties.

' That they might settle in *France*, and dispose of
' their Estates by Will, Gift, or otherwise, and their
' Heirs Subjects of the said States living in *France*, or
' elsewhere, enjoy their Chattels even *ab Intestat*, tho'
' they have not taken Letters of Naturalization; and
' that they shall be in general treated in all things and
' in all Places as favourably as his Majesty's own and
' natural Subjects.

' From whence 'tis necessarily to be inferr'd, that
' the *Hollanders* being by this Article deem'd to be
' treated in *France*, as natural-born *French*, and having
' no occasion of any thing to enjoy this Privilege, but
' to be the States Subjects, cannot by the Laws of
' *Holland* be hinder'd from taking a *French* Commis-
' sion, without tacitely derogating from the Terms
' of this Article, and renouncing with their own Con-
' sent the Advantages they may receive by it.

' The second Article admits also of no Difficulty,
' supposing the said Captain might arm with a *French*
' Commission; because in this Case, the pretended
' Prohibitions or Edicts in *Holland* ought to have no
' more

' more Force against him than a natural-born French-
 ' man; and those who try'd the said *David* seem'd
 ' so far to agree to this Truth, that in the Narrative of
 ' the Sentence of Condemnation, he's not at all charg'd
 ' with having broken the said Edicts or Prohibitions,
 ' but only committing several Piracies in the *Indian*
 ' Seas, which is not true in Fact; inasmuch as these
 ' pretended Prizes were taken from the *Moors*, and o-
 ' thers, Subjects of a King of the *Indies*, who has no
 ' Alliance with the States of *Holland*.

' The third Proposition, That the said Captain *Laurence David* arm'd and sail'd with a *French* Commis-
 ' sion and *French* Colours only, is prov'd by the Copy
 ' of the Sentence of Condemnation against him here-
 ' unto annex'd, which does not make any Commis-
 ' sion that the said Captain bore any other but that
 ' of *France*, which certainly would not have been o-
 ' mitted to have been alledg'd, had he been guilty of
 ' so criminal an Action.

' Besides, 'tis certain he took no other Commission
 ' for the said Voyage than that from Monsieur the
 ' Admiral, nor hoisted any Flag but that of *France*;
 ' and this ought to be allow'd as matter of Fact, un-
 ' less there's any Proof to the contrary.

' As to the fourth Article, 'tis not to be doubted
 ' that he who Arms, Sails, and makes War with a Com-
 ' mission, cannot be deem'd a Pirate; especially by
 ' such as are in Alliance with the Prince who granted
 ' the Commission. If this Truth is disputed, new
 ' Laws and Maxims must be establish'd at Sea, and
 ' *France* will have Reason to treat as Pirates such as
 ' shall hereafter come into her Ports with a *Holland*
 ' Commission. This being suppos'd, 'twill be no hard
 ' matter to agree about the fifth Article, that whoever
 ' Arms and takes Prizes at Sea, should give an Account
 ' only to him, by whose Commission he arm'd, and
 ' took the said Prizes.

' This

' This Consequence is naturally drawn from the
' Reason of the Thing, and not only the Use and Pra-
' ctice of all Nations authorize it, but also the 26th
' Article of the above-mention'd Treaty of the Re-
' newal of the Alliance with *Holland* contains it in
' express Terms, when it says, that *French* or *Dutch*
' Ships arm'd for War, which shall take any Prizes,
' shall not be seiz'd nor stop'd, nor the Officers of
' the Ports take Cognizance of the said Prizes, which
' shall be permitted to go forth, and depart freely to
' the Places contain'd in their Commissions, which the
' Captains of the said Ships shall be oblig'd to pro-
' duce.

' Can any thing be more plain as to the Case in
' Question? And can the Lords the States, or by their
' Authority, the Gentlemen concern'd in the *East-*
' *India* Company, take Cognizance of the Voyage and
' Prizes taken by Captain *Laurence David*? Can they
' condemn him, as they have done, to thirty Years Im-
' prisonment, and much less detain and keep, under co-
' lour of Confiscation, the Goods proceeding from the
' said Wreck and Prizes?

' All these Reasons oblige the Lord Admiral, and
' those who were concern'd in setting out the said *Lau-*
' *rence David*, most humbly to entreat his Majesty to
' let the Lords the States know by his Ambassador,
' that Justice should be done them on the Contents of
' the present Memorial, or grant them Letters of Re-
' prizals to make use of 'em on Occasion, and by this
' Means endeavour to indemnifie themselves for the
' Loss the Gentlemen of the *East India* Company shall
' make 'em sustain; it being the Aim and Interest of the
' said Company to hinder the *French*, or any bearing
' *French* Commissions, to trade there.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: February 1, 1664.

I Think I can give you now the good News of the King's being likely to be soon disengag'd from the Obligation impos'd on him, by his Honour, to send an Army over the Mountains next Spring, and that 'tis now most probable he will then recal the three Bodies of Troops he sent this Winter into the *Modenese*, the *Parmesan*, and the *Montferrat*; since the only Difficulty which hinder'd an Accommodation with the Court of *Rome*, since the Congress at *Pont du Beau Voisin*, is at last remov'd, by the Resolution the Pope came to the 18th of this Month, to consent that *de Castro* be turn'd out of his Places, and that by the Advice and with the Consent of the College of Cardinals, as you'll see by a Copy of a Writing I send you, which one of his Holiness's Secretaries carry'd that Day to the Cardinal of *Arragon* and the *Venesian* Ambassador residing at *Rome*, which they sent hither to their Colleagues by an Express the next Day, the 19th. His Majesty's generous Proceeding was known at *Rome*, in offering Peace once more, before he order'd his Arms to turn against *de Castro's* Lands, and having sent a Power to Monsieur de *Bourlemont*, Auditor of the *French Rota*, who retir'd to *Florence*, to conclude the Accommodation at any time between that and the 15th of *February* on the same Terms he desir'd at the Conference at *Pont du Beau Voisin*, without adding any thing to it; destroying by this means the false Reports the *Chigi's* spread in the World, that his Majesty had other Designs than he discover'd, and that 'twould signifie nothing to give him Satisfaction with Reference to *de Castro*, because he would soon start some new and greater Pretensions to make this Difference last. When the Pope understood full Power was sent the said Sieur

de

de Bourlément, he alter'd his first Resolution to send a Person on purpose hither, and deputed again the *Sieur Raspony* to go treat with the said *Sieur de Bourlément* at *Florence*; there's the more likelihood that something good will be done in it before the 15th of this Month, because the King has not increas'd his Pretensions, and that the Court of *Rome* has not resolv'd to turn *de Castro* out of his Places but thro' meer constraint, and after having in vain tempted all the Princes and Potentates to enter into a League with her, under Colour of defending *Italy*; so that we may suppose that not having been able to dispose any other Power to maintain her Caprice and Injustice, the same Reason which forc'd her to abandon *Castro* (for whom the *Chigi's* protested they would suffer Death) will oblige her also to consent to the other Satisfactions his Majesty requires, which are agreed to for the most part already, and are not of such a Nature as to break off a Treaty on either side.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: February 7, 1664.

I Had clos'd my last Dispatch just as Monsieur *de Wit* came to me, and after having offer'd several Reasons to oblige me to act in the King's Name about the Affairs in hand, which I have mention'd already in my Dispatches; I answer'd, I waited for Orders by the return of Monsieur *Batailler*, and had nothing to add to what I told him on that Subject. He afterwards desir'd me to endeavour to get the King's Answer to the grand Affair some days before the meeting of the States of *Holland*, which is to be the first of *March*; that if things cannot be accommodated he may have time to prepare the Minds of his Friends, and manage his Credit and Interests in a matter that had been propos'd to them by him; I reply'd, he might

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from

from that time dispose them to what he thought fit, since he ought to know that the King's Design was so to express the Articles of the Treaty, that they should contain nothing prejudicial to the Queen's Rights, and that he would be fully inform'd of every thing when Monsieur *Batailler* return'd, before which time, or that I receiv'd his Majesty's Order, I could not enter further into Discourse on this Subject. I observ'd he had something more to say to me, by the several Questions he ask'd me, and in effect I answer'd him always ambiguously and from my self. He told me, when the Gentlemen to whom the Affair had been communicated were here, he would propose to them to find out Expressions to be us'd in the Treaty, that might contain nothing prejudicial to the Queen's Right, which his Majesty might make use of when occasion requir'd; but it must be so done that it shall give no Umbrage to the Provinces; and he would with the utmost Care and Affection contribute what in him lay to promote his Majesty's Interests. He told me afterwards, that the Engagement the States were to be in with the King by this Treaty, would break all sorts of Measures with the King of *Spain*, and that the King would by this means be certain to be Master of these Provinces, that he cou'd assure me all sorts of Alliances would be refus'd after that, and nothing done of that kind without the King's Participation.

I thank'd him for the good Disposition he express'd himself to be in for his Majesty's Service, which I hop'd he would put in practice, and he might depend upon it, his Majesty had a very great Esteem for the Lords the States; that Monsieur *Batailler* would be soon here, and I would not fail to communicate to him the Orders I have receiv'd from the King. The Express staying made me hasten an end of our Conversation.

You will perceive by this last Visit that Affairs press upon him, and that he abates much of the Steadiness he shew'd before; you will please to write me how I shall

shall manage my self e'er the Divisions grow greater. They are secret now, but very hot, and not an Hour ago I was inform'd two considerable Cities of *Holland* intend to declare against the Form of the Government, which they say is Tyrannical, on account of *Monfieur de Wit's* Power; nevertheless, he's assur'd his Faction is the strongest, and if the King is for him, he will be Master of all Things. This I got to be dextrously insinuated into him by a Person, who shew'd him at a distance 'twas the only Resource he had against the Levity of the People; the King will take his Measures thereon, and may chuse which Side he thinks most for his Advantage.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: February 8, 1664.

MOnfieur de Wit was not well inform'd, when he told you he knew from a very good Hand, that our Treaty with the Elector of *Brandenburgh* was concluded, and 'twas for that Reason I wrote you nothing of it. I can even say that *Monfieur de Bloemendael* will leave this Place next Week, without having come to any Conclusion; not but that we had agreed on almost all the Terms, but there's one Article which still hangs, about which he must wait upon his Master, pursuant to the Orders he has receiv'd; and tho' we shou'd sign the rest, as it may happen before his Departure, they are to be null, if the Elector, on *Monfieur Bloemendael's* coming to him, refuses his Consent to what is requir'd of him by that Article. I have not yet seen the *Sieur de Blanc*, who fell sick at *Bretenil*, from whence he sent a Postillion to me. The Man now in Question has not yet appear'd, People have been set in his way to catch him, in case he delays seeing me; in the mean time, you must some how or other, that is by fair Means or foul, detain him who came to you, and

gave you the Information. He acted very imprudently in leaving *Brussels*, for if he says he was present when the trial was made on a Dog by Spectacles, as soon as his Master found he was gone, he ought to suspect he had made his Escape, to give the King notice by some means or other of this damnable Design, and would have been sure to have sent after the Assassin to bring him back to *Brussels*, or warn him not to see me, which has oblig'd us to order Men in quest of him, without staying 'till he comes to me of himself; after all, we have much ado to believe 'tis possible to poison a Person by the approach of a Glass: But the Life which is concern'd being such as no Price is to be put upon, we should be Criminal, if we were not as diligent as if we were satisfy'd the thing was easie and infallible. In the mean while, examine the Man that's with you, and endeavour to sift out of him if 'twas not rather the desire of some great Reward that put him upon it, than any thing else; ask him especially what Precautions he us'd in leaving *Brussels*, to hinder the Internuncio's sending after the Assassin to recall him, when he mist him, or to warn him not to appear; this will be a sure way to find out the Sincerity or Treachery of the Matter. As such sorts of Information deserve great Rewards when they are true, so those ought to be chastis'd who are found to be Impostors.

I send you the Letters of *Aubaine*, which the King has granted Monsieur *de Rives*, together with his Warrant. You will lay a sensible Obligation on me, by the care you shall be pleas'd to take in this Affair, and I am satisfy'd when Monsieur *de Wit* and our other Friends know 'tis the Concern of an Uncle of my Wife's they will be ready powerfully to assist us.

*Memorial presented by Monsieur Brabeck
to their High Mightinesses the Lords the
States-General of the United-Provinces
of the Low-Countries : February 12
1664.*

High and Mighty Lords,

YOUR High Mightinesses will still remember, that
by Virtue of my Credentials, I formerly ami-
cably represented to you by several Ways, in the
Name of his most Serene Highness my Master, and
since by a Memorial last Year, that the Territory of
Borkelo with its Dependancies ought to be restor'd
to him, as being plainly a Dependancy of the Bi-
shoprick of *Munster*; and tho' on the 9th of *March* the
Lords Deputies of the Province of *Guelderland* took the
said Memorial to Communicate it to the Lords their
Principals, your High Mightinesses did notwith-
standing put it into the Hands of the *Sieur Van Om-*
meren, and others your Deputies, to see, examine,
enter into Conference with me thereon, and make
their Report: But as I did not without Reason fear,
that the said Lords the Deputies of *Guelderland* ha-
ving taken the said Memorial, the Matter would be
spun out to too great a Length, I us'd Instances with
your High Mightinesses the 15th of the said Month
of *March*, that you would be pleas'd to proceed
forthwith to a Resolution on the said Memorial, that
his most Serene Highness my Master might enjoy the
Effect of his just Demand; on which your High
Mightinesses, by Virtue of the Resolution taken the
same Day on this Subject, requir'd the said Lords
Deputies of the Province of *Guelderland* to repre-

first Meeting, and acquaint your High Mightinesses
 with their Declaration thereon, as soon as possible;
 but his most Serene Highness my Master does not
 hear that any Declaration has been ever since made,
 unless 'twas a Writing, Printed with the Title of
Deduction, in consequence of the Resolution of
 the Lords the States of the Principality of *Guelder-*
land, and County of *Zutphen*, taken at the Assembly
 of the said *Zutphen* the eighth of *April*, 1663, and
 presented to your High Mightinesses. In which
 case 'tis but just to consider the Affair is not ended
 by that, and that collecting, asserting and printing
 Things whose Foundation have only a fair Out-side,
 is not sufficient; but they ought to be verif'd by
 Documents and effective Proofs, and as to that it be-
 ing certain none can be produc'd in the behalf of
Guelderland and *Styrum*; I am, by Virtue of an Ite-
 rative Letter from his most Serene Highness my Ma-
 ster, again earnestly to entreat your High Mightinesses,
 that notwithstanding the invalid Reasons of the said
 Counties of *Guelderland* and *Styrum*, the said Lord-
 ship of *Borkela* with its Dependancies be restor'd to
 his most Serene Highness; but in case your High
 Mightinesses be of Opinion, that the Matter should
 be first debated with the Lords Deputies commissi-
 on'd thereunto, and that the Documents alledg'd in
 the said *Deduction* may be produc'd, I am ready to
 confer with them, and to make an amicable Propo-
 sition in a neighbourly Way touching his most Serene
 Highness's lawful Right, provided this my Offer be
 not so taken, that thereby his most Serene Highness
 would desist from his Right acquir'd in the Em-
 pire, *Uti foro Competente cum plena causa Cogniti-*
one, or submit herein to a new Judicature; and your
 High Mightinesses according to your great Prudence
 will have no ill-Suspensions of me, if in the Name of
 his most Serene Highness my Master, I take the best
 Precautions I can, and solemnly protest by these Pre-
 sents,

sents, that the whole cannot in any wise prejudice,
neither his said most Serene Highness, nor his Dio-
cess, nor the Holy Roman Empire.

And Lower was written,

Of your High Mightinesses the most dispos'd
to your Service,

J. BRABECK.

'Twas sign'd at the *Hague* the 19th of *Februa-*
ry, 1664.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, pre-
sented to the Lords the States-General
of the United-Provinces of the Low-
Countries: February 19, 1664.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordina-
ry of *France*, having heard that Monsieur the
Dean of *Munster* has presented a Memorial to your
Lordships, to demand the Restauration of the Lord-
ship of *Borkelo* with its Appurtenances, and having
express Orders from the King his Master to second
the Pretensions and Instances of the Lord Bishop
and Prince of *Munster* with his good Offices, can't
dispense with Representing again to your Lordships,
as he did in the Month of *March* last Year, that his
Majesty recommended the Interests of his Highness
to Messieurs the Ambassadors Extraordinary of this
State, during the whole Course of their Negotia-
tion with so much Earnestness, that 'tis not to be doub-
ed but he is very much concern'd for the Success
of it, and as his Majesty's Intention is only to speak

for Justice, he promises himself also that your Lordships will take Pleasure to let the Bishop of *Munster* on this Occasion find the Effects of it, as well to shew your Inclination to this Virtue; as to demonstrate what a Value you set on the Recommendation of the King, your best and most affectionate Allie, who will never make any to you but what is just. Done at the *Hague* the 19th of *February*, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
February 21, 1664.

MONsieur de *Wit* return'd two Days since from *Amsterdam*, and the Cities of *Holland*, where he has been to dispose the Minds of People to make use of such Expressions in the Project as he thinks proper: He told me, he propos'd to 'em to strike out in the first Article the Expression, (consequently as long as the King of *Spain*, or the Prince his Son shall live) and that when the Queen's Rights are mention'd, there should be added (and that that may be verifi'd by clear Proofs well made out. And in the second Article to strike out, (it happens by the Death of the King and Prince of *Spain*) and put (the Succession to the Crown of *Spain* falls) but he found the City of *Amsterdam* was against it, and told him, after several Conferences on that Subject, they fix'd upon the Project that was sent to your Majesty, to which their City consented long since, and that 'twas better to wait for and inquire into the Queen's Right, which they would pass if they were verifi'd, than change the Terms agreed to by their Provinces, which they thought just, equitable, and prejudicial to no Body; that all his Care and Pain had been to no Purpose, the

the other Cities having follow'd the Opinion of that of *Amsterdam*; that he durst not speak of the Project your Majesty had sent, because the first Time he propos'd it to them, they said they would not contest about doubtful Matters, nor let the Publick know they enter'd into the Treaty thro' the Certitude of the Queen's Right, to the Exclusion of the Prince of *Spain*, on uncertain Facts; they alleg'd also, that the shutting up the Entrance of the *Scheld*, and other Rivers whereon their Commerce depends, not being express'd in your Majesty's Project, they could hearken to no Treaty without those Conditions, and that the more because the *Spaniards* agreed to them by the Treaty of *Munster*, and they are in Possession of them. He afterwards declar'd to me, he was mightily concern'd to see an Affair drop which was in such forwardness, and he had on his side advanc'd it so far with more Trouble and Care than your Majesty imagin'd. I told him, your Majesty was always satisfy'd of his good Intentions, that I had no Answer to make to what he had told me, that perhaps *Amsterdam* and the Cities of *Holland* would one Day repent, they had not follow'd his Advice on the Proposal he had made them, and if they had accepted of it, I could not assure them your Majesty would agree to it, not knowing any thing of your Designs therein, and waiting for the Return of Monsieur *Batailler* to be inform'd of them.

Memorial presented to the King by Monsieur Boreel, Ambassador from the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: February 29, 1664.

THE King will name Commissioners to mark all Ships as they are mark'd in *Norway*, that by the Mark of each may be known what Port they belong to, and by this means all sorts of Vexations be prevented.

The King cannot consent to the said Jussion, but on Condition of the Oppositions, his Majesty being oblig'd to maintain Justice, and not to prejudice the Rights of private Men.

The King cannot consent to this Article.

THAT as to the Excesses touching the exacting the Duty of Freight, and the Gage of Ships subject to the said Duty, a certain Regulation between *France* and the *Low-Countries* may be made, that all vexatious and unjust Practices may cease, if his Majesty desires still to continue the said Duty of Freight.

That Letters of Jussion for the perfect Establishing of the Consuls of the *United-Provinces*, as well in *Normandy* as *Bretagne*, may be granted, notwithstanding all the Oppositions made thereunto at *Roan*.

That his Majesty will be pleas'd to cause a Declaration to be made, containing, that there's nothing forbidden to be imported into *France*, by the 19th and 20th Articles of the

the Treaty concluded at *Paris* the 27th of *April*, 1662, but Whale-Oil excepted by the said Treaty, and nothing else whatsoever.

Idem.

Consequently, that the Black Soap, notwithstanding there's Whale-Oil mix'd with it, unjustly seiz'd at *Roan*, and the Ships that brought it from *Holland*, may be releas'd, and restor'd to the Owners, with all Damages, Costs and Interest, and Prohibition made that such Seizures may not happen for the Future.

Idem.

That all Black Soap, and every thing else proceeding from Whales, and the Oil of all other Fish but Whales, are free to be imported in *France*, according to the 19th and 20th Articles of the said Treaty.

* The King has sent express Orders for it, and
* will cause Justice to be
* done.

The Effects of the Justice promis'd against the Abettors and Protectors of the Pyrates at *la Hogue* in *Normandy*, against his Majesty's express Intention, are waited for.

* The King does not
* use to give his Parliaments any Cognizance of
* the Treaties he concludes,

The said Ambassador received Orders from the Lords the States to demand, that the Treaty of the Renewal of

• cludes, for which reason
 • his Majesty cannot con-
 • sent to the said Regi-
 • string; but if the States
 • give a Memorial, con-
 • taining all the Matters
 • that may relate to the
 • Jurisdiction of the So-
 • vereign Courts, his Ma-
 • jesty will acquaint them
 • with it, by a Declaration
 • he'll cause to be drawn
 • up to that effect, and
 • will send it to all the
 • Courts they can desire
 • to be register'd, that the
 • Subjects of the said Pro-
 • vinces may enjoy the
 • Benefit of it, and the
 • Parliaments judge their
 • Causes by that Rule.

of the Alliance, Commerce,
 and Navigation, concluded
 the 27th of *April*, 1662, at
Paris, between *France* and
 the said *United-Provinces*,
 may be verifi'd, and re-
 gister'd in all the Parlia-
 ments and Sovereign Courts
 of the Kingdom, that all
 the Subjects of the said
 Provinces may enjoy the
 Benefit of it, without any
 Opposition or Contradi-
 ction.

*Other Points remonstrated by the said
 Ambassador.*

• The King will give
 • the necessary Orders to
 • his Attorney-General, for
 • the Quarantain to cease
 • in all Places. This is done
 • already.

• This Affair is accom-
 • modated, and the Duke
 • of *Savoy* has given an
 • Amnesty to his Subjects
 • of

That the Quarantain,
 order'd throughout the
 Kingdom for all Ships and
 Goods coming from the
 said *United-Provinces*, may
 cease, seeing that there's
 no contagious Distemper
 in them.

That the King will be
 pleas'd to return a favou-
 rable Answer to the Re-
 monstrance made him by
 the

of the said Vallies of the said Ambassador, in
Piedmont, as appears by behalf of the, Protestants
the Memorial hereto annex'd. of Piedmont.

In the above Memorial, there are two Articles which relate to the private Interest of some of the Subjects of the United-Provinces with some of his Majesty's, of which his Majesty does not think fit to take Cognizance, but to leave them to the Course of Law in the Jurisdiction where the Suit lyes.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: March 6, 1664.

THE *Spanish* Ambassador arriv'd here the 29th past. He does his utmost to dispose the Deputies of the Assembly to embrace the League of the seventeen Provinces. I thought best to visit Monsieur *de Wit*, and communicate to him the Information I have receiv'd thereon, and give him to understand, as from my self, if they proceeded farther in this Affair, I declar'd to him then, the King would look upon it as an Infraction of the Treaty of 1662, and would endeavour to enter Leagues with Friends that would have more Value for him, and more Steadiness than the States. I thought I might say all this without running any Risk, because I'm certain that this Apprehension restrains the *Spanish* Ambassador's Friends from going so fast as he desires: The said *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, he never approv'd of the League of the seven-

teen Provinces, that he had always oppos'd it, but could not answer some Dispositions of the Persons who govern their Cities, and think this League for their Advantage and Security. That for this Reason he desir'd the grand Treaty with the King might be concluded, to break off all such Negotiations at once, and absolutely reject *Gamarre's* Proposal; but the Difficulties rais'd by the King, in altering the Terms of the Project as to the Succession's falling, created Jealousies in the City of *Amsterdam*, with respect to their Trade; they fearing some unforeseen Rupture between the two Kings, and he himself was suspected by them as soon as he propos'd Expedients to them.

That he had been oblig'd to find out some Pretexes to put off the meeting of the Assembly 'till the tenth of this Month; to break the Measures of the *Spanish* Faction, and get time to perswade the Deputies of the City of *Amsterdam* to come to better Resolutions than they took his last Journey; that he had also got a Friend of his to be appointed a Deputy in the room of one who was fallen sick, to be seconded in the Design he had to speak boldly in a Conference that is to be holden to Day with the Deputies of the Cities of *Holland*. And he told me further, that when he had spoken to them; he would give his Opinion, and the Reasons he supported it by, in a Memorial, that they may be the better consider'd of.

You'll see by this Resolution; no Man could do better than Monsieur *de Wit* has done, and that 'tis not his Fault if the King has not Satisfaction; his own Interest is engag'd in it also; and he perceives if the Treaty he propos'd does not go forward, he's not strong enough alone to maintain his Party against the Cabals which are forming to destroy it.

I could do no less than thank him for his good Disposition for his Majesty's Service, and assure him, if he did any thing in the Conference which shew'd his Inclination and Affection to the King, he might depend

pend on his Protection in his own Interests; and I might tell him beforehand, he may venture with such a Second to act vigorously, and not doubt of Success. I observ'd he was very well pleas'd, and I hope I may next Post be able to write you something more than all this.

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 12, 1664.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, we were very glad to hear, by the Letter you wrote us the 8th of *January* last, that you had equipp'd a Fleet to make War upon the *Corfairs*; for we having been at a considerable Expence in endeavouring to clear the Sea of Pirates, and render Navigation free, we with Pleasure understood you had also resolv'd to fit out some Ships to concur in the same Design, and second our good Intentions, and we doubt not you will give the necessary Orders to the Commanders of the said Fleet, to act in Concert with the Commander in Chief of ours, as Opportunities may offer for Undertaking something of Importance against the said Pirates. You may also rest satisfy'd that we will on our Part be assisting to your Ships towards the good Success of their Designs in all things depending on our Authority, and to that end have readily consented, that a Magazin of Provisions and Stores be erected at *Marseilles* for their Refreshment, thinking that Port would be much more proper and commodious for you than that of *Thoulon*, for the Reason you'll be particularly inform'd of by the Count *D'Estrades*: We have at the same time order'd all our Officers of the said City to leave your Lordships at full and entire Liberty to load, unload, refit and revictual, as your Agents shall

shall think fit; assuring you moreover, that there and in all other Places we will succour, favour and assist them, which you may depend upon from our singular Affection; and we pray God to have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Paris, March, 7, 1664.*

Your good Friend, Allie and Confederate,

De Lionne.

LOUIS.

To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 7, 1664.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, accompanying with his Memorial of the 29th of *January* last, the Letter Monsieur the Duke of *Vendome*, Peer, Great Master, Chief and Superintendant General of the Navigation and Trade of *France*, wrote to your Lordships, on account of the Merchandizes and other Things taken and sav'd in the Red-Sea by Captain *Laurence David* with his Commission, there represented, that all the said Merchandizes had been declar'd good Prize by a Decree of the King's Council, and his Majesty has order'd him to demand Restitution, since they could not belong to any but those to whom they were adjudg'd by the said Decree of his Council.

Where-

Wherefore the said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes your Lordships, reflecting on the Reasons which strengthen the Justice of the Decree of the Council, and Monsieur de Vendome's Demand, would have made no Difficulty to acquiesce with it; especially since there's no Body does, or indeed can claim his Merchandizes, because the *East-India* Company (which in this Affair ought to be look'd upon only as a private Person) cannot be a Party; and even the Magistrate of *Dort*, in taking Cognizance of *Laurence David's* pretended Crime, would not condemn the Merchandizes. However, for these six Weeks past, Reason has not been done the said Duke in his just Pretensions, and no Answer given to what was represented by him, as well in his Memorial as the Papers join'd to it; and in the mean while, his Agents, whose Principal, as Chief of the Admiralty of *France*, can on a thousand Occasions oblige this State, remain here at great Expence and wait to no purpose, for what may be recover'd of the Merchandizes that are in this Country, which obliges the said Ambassador to repeat by these Lines the Instances he formerly us'd on this Subject, and earnestly to entreat your Lordships to consider that 'tis properly the State which becomes a Party, since Justice is not done; so that the Decree of the King's Council not being to be contested by any one whatsoever, he doubts not your Lordships will have that just Complacency for his Majesty, as forthwith to order the said Merchandizes to be put into the Hands of those that brought the Procuration from Monsieur de *Vendome*, because the Bales that were at *Rotterdam* have been restor'd, and every where else the same thing was done on the first Summons. Done at the *Hague*,
March 7, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

R.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, March 12, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, by Yesterday's Post receiv'd Letters from the King his Master, which serve for an Answer to your Lordships of the 8th of January last, concerning your equipping some Ships against the Corsairs of Barbary, and your demanding Leave to erect a Magazine of Provisions and Stores in the City of Thoulon, for the Supplying of the said Fleet: Upon which, his Majesty has order'd the said Ambassador Extraordinary to acquaint your Lordships, that he's ready to contribute what in him lyes towards the good Success of your Designs; nevertheless he cannot permit a Magazine to be erected in the said City of Thoulon, as well because such a thing would Occasion a thousand Disputes between the Farmers of the Customs, and those who should have the Charge of such Magazines, as for that it might give Opportunities to defraud the King of his Duties, and embarras his Majesty with Demands of the said Farmers for Damages; but his Majesty, being willing to favour your Lordships good Inter-
 tions, has readily consented that a Magazine of Provisions and Stores be erected at *Marseilles*, and his Majesty thinking that Port, which is already free, will be more proper for it, and more commodious than that of *Thoulon*, and for that he leaves your Men of War a full and entire Liberty to load, unload, re-fit, and revictual as they shall think fit, he supposes he has sufficiently answer'd your Lordships Desires, and hopes you will be entirely satisfy'd with the Testimony he on this Occasion gives you of his Zeal
 for

for the Welfare of Christendom in general, and his
 Affection for that of this State in particular. His Ma-
 jesty also orders the said Ambassador Extraordinary
 to give your Lordships the Contents of two diffe-
 rent Memorials, presented him by the Lord Ambassa-
 dor *Boreel* on several Affairs, the Articles of which
 are mark'd in the Margent; so that your Lordships
 will thereby perceive his Majesty's Equity in the
 punctual Execution of the Treaty of *Paris*, and he
 has Reason to hope your Lordships will acquiesce in
 it, and acknowledge, by his readiness to answer your
 Minister's Memorials, that for the future you may
 expect every thing which his Majesty's Justice and
 Equity can at any time grant you. The same Am-
 bassador Extraordinary might accompany the Letter
 the King his Master has written you, on account of
 the Interests of the Order of *Maltha*, with several
 convincing Reasons; but both he and those who
 have preceded him in the Honour of his Employ-
 ment, have so often represented how much that Or-
 der deserves from all Christendom, and the indispu-
 table Justice of its Pretensions, as also the impor-
 tant Considerations which oblige his Majesty to pro-
 cure the Restauration of their Commanderies, and par-
 ticularly the Consideration of the particular Inclu-
 sion of the Order of *Maltha*, and the Lord Cardinal
 of *Hesse*, as Grand Prior of the Order in *Germany*
 in the late *Pyrenean* Treaty, that he thinks he can
 add nothing to it, and refers himself to what he
 has formerly represented in several Memorials, and
 particularly that of the eleventh of *February* last,
 with reference to the Independence of some Baili-
 wicks and Commanderies, and will content himself
 earnestly to entreat your Lordships to finish this Af-
 fair forthwith, that some Satisfaction may be given
 to his Master, to all the Christian Princes in *Europe*,
 and to Justice it self. Done at the *Hague*, *March*
 21, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

R 2

From

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: March 20, 1664.

YOU will, in my Dispatch of the sixth, see the Reasons Monsieur de Wit made use of to get the City of *Amsterdam* to put such Terms in this Treaty as might satisfy the King. They stand still upon the first Project, and say if they shou'd consent to have the Terms alter'd, perhaps new Difficulties would be started, and they would know whether I would sign the Treaty, in Case the said Terms were agreed to. I reply'd no, but that I would first give the King Advice of what had been propos'd to me from them; and I thought 'twas most proper to leave them there, and not press them, since I also expect to be better inform'd of his Majesty's Pleasure when Monsieur *Batailler* returns,

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, March 24, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, having receiv'd your Lordships Resolution of the 21st of this Month, cannot help saying he was surpriz'd to find your Lordships Justice limited by a Clause which frustrates its Effect, and deprives the King this Matter of the Satisfaction he promis'd himself; because his Majesty having by a Decree of his Council, of the 30th of November last, caus'd the Goods brought from the Red-Sea by *Hubert Hugo* and *Lawrence David* to be declar'd lawful Prizes; your Lordships now order they be restor'd

to

to those that demand them, but order at the same
 time they shall give good and sufficient Security. For
 which Reason he's oblig'd to represent to your Lord-
 ships, that there's nothing to be done but to carry
 the said Merchandizes to *Dunkirk*, to be there di-
 vided between the Duke of *Vendome*, and the said
Hugo and his Associates, according to the Decree of
 the Council. 'Tis the said Ambassador Extraordi-
 nary himself, who has express Orders from the King
 his Master, and is order'd by the said Decree of
 Council to demand them, and Security ought not to
 be given but where the Sentence was. All the said
 Ambassador Extraordinary can do, is to assure your
 Lordships, as he does assure you by these Presents,
 that the said Merchandizes shall not be dispos'd of
 but according to his Majesty and the Duke of *Ven-*
dome's Pleasure, against whom the concern'd may pro-
 secute their Claims, as they are oblig'd. So that he
 earnestly prays your Lordships, in the name of the
 King his Master, to order a plain and positive Re-
 stitution of the said Merchandizes to Monsieur the
 Duke of *Vendome's* Secretary without Delay, that
 they may be dispos'd of pursuant to the Decree of
 Council; Done at the *Hague*, March 24, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

*Proposals made by the Count D'Estrades
to the Lords the States-General of the
United-Provinces of the Low-Coun-
tries, concerning the Affairs of Maltha :
April 1, 1664.*

My Lords,

THIS not necessary to repeat here the Reasons which verifie the Right of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, to the Lands and Commanderies situate in these Provinces; because this Right has been so well made out by the Memorials which have from time to time been presented to your Lordships; and particularly the Recital of the third of March, 1663; insomuch that hitherto there's no Body who has attempted to make any Answer to it.

The Silence of those who have for many Years enjoy'd a good part of those Lands and Commanderies, is an infallible Sign they are in their Consciences convinc'd of the Injustice of their Proceedings. Nevertheless, they do not of themselves give place to Justice, nor comply with the earnest Entreaties of the King my Master, but tire out the Patience of the Order, and oppose the just Opinion of some of the Provinces, who think it ought to have Satisfaction.

Your Lordships gave Hopes, by a great number of Resolutions, that Restitution should be made; but the Execution of those Resolutions being delay'd by the indirect Opposition of those who alone enjoy more of the Estates belonging to the Order, than all the rest together, his Majesty has positively commanded me to represent, in a publick and expresse Audience, that 'tis as much your Lordships Interest, as that of the Order, which obliges him to continue the pressing Instances he has caus'd to be made by his

his Ministers for above twenty Years past, for the Re-
stitution of the Commanderies.

For the King, as the first Christian Prince, is en-
gag'd on several Accounts to press this Restitution,
and is oblig'd to do it by the Inclusion he allow'd
the Cardinal of *Hesse*, as Grand Prior of the Order
of *St. John of Jerusalem* in *Germany*, and the States
and Commanderies which depend on it, in the late
Pyrenean Treaty, of which he gave your Lordships
Notice by his Letter of the 12th of *November*, 1660.
Yet his Majesty thinks, of whatever Importance it is
to the Order that this Restitution be made, it is of
much more to your Lordships and the Reputation of
this State, to maintain the Glory you have already ac-
quir'd, by making it the principal Maxim in your Po-
liticks to ground all your Actions on Justice and E-
quity.

I say it is of Importance to your selves, in as much
as for above these twenty Years you have not al-
ledg'd one single Reason to justify the Possession of
the Estates of the Order, to restore immediately and
cheerfully what was taken from them with too much
Precipitation, or at least content the Order by an E-
quivalent, to shew all Kings, Republicks and Princes
of *Europe*, your good Disposition and the Inclination
you have to Justice.

Nor does it import you less, my Lords, to ac-
quit your selves of the Promise made by my Lords
your Ambassadors Extraordinary, when the King
my Master wou'd have had the Interest of the Order
of *Malta* to have made a part of the Treaty conclu-
ded two Years since, and to execute the generous
Resolutions your Lordships have from time to time
taken on this Subject to the Advantage of the Or-
der, and the Content of those who are concern'd
for it.

This Execution is what my Master at present
demands, conjuring you by what ought to be most
dear to you, to consider the Delays with which the

Order has been hitherto put off are incompatible with the frank and sincere Way of Proceeding of this State and Nation; and the good Correspondence my Lord Grand Prior of *Maltha* has always maintain'd with you.

His Majesty knows the good Disposition of some of the Provinces, and would be entirely satisfy'd, if they whose Inclinations are so just, would oblige the rest to conform and keep up in this Matter the Union, which is to this State what the Soul is to Man; and if your Lordships desire I should make use of more pressing Terms, I will add, the King thinks your Lordships indispensably oblig'd, by Vertue of your Union, to compel the Provinces of which this State is compos'd to do Justice to Neighbouring and Foreign Princes, and particularly in the Affair of the Order, because these Estates are of the Nature of those of which the perpetual Confederation earnestly speaks, and that besides the ill Proceeding of one single Province may disturb the Peace of the whole Estate, and her Trade in an extream Degree.

It is also not to be doubted, but the Order will be very sensible of what your Lordships shall resolve on in their favour in Consequence of this Audience, or will resent the Affront offer'd to it by new Delays, as well as a positive Denial, and that the King my Master will on all Accounts approve of its Resentment.

I must tell your Lordships, his Majesty will take it for a positive Denial of Justice, if you hearken to the pretended Independence some alledge for the Bailwicks and Commanderies of their Province; for besides that there's a plain Contradiction in their allowing the Bailiwick to be of the Order of *St. John of Jerusalem*, and yet saying it does not depend on the Grand Prior of the Order in *Germany*, nor the Great Master of *Maltha*, it lyes on them to prove this pretended Independence, since according to the Rules of the Canon Law, he who alledges an Exemption must

• must prove it, particularly when 'tis against common
 • Law; as in this case it being certain there's no Con-
 • vent College nor Order that is Independent, nor
 • any Bailiwick, Commandery, nor Convent of the
 • Order of St. *John of Jerusalem*, but what depends
 • on the Great Master of the Order of *Maltha*, those
 • who here manage the Affairs of the Lord Cardinal of
 • *Hesse*, Grand Prior of the Order of *Maltha*, tho'
 • their Principal is not oblig'd to this Proof, have
 • been willing by convincing and infallible Testimony
 • to prove that the Bailiwick of *Utrecht*, and the Com-
 • manderies which are annex'd to it, depend immedi-
 • ately on the Grand Prior of *Germany*, and to that
 • effect have produc'd the very Letters of the former
 • Bailiffs of *Utrecht*; a Copy of one of which they now
 • produce with this Memorial, sign'd by almost all
 • the Commanders of the Bailiwick of *Utrecht*: The
 • Original of which they have by them, justifying
 • their Subjection and Dependance on the Grand Prior
 • of *Germany*.

• 'Twould not be less a manifest Denial of Justice,
 • if after above twenty Years Prosecution the Province
 • of *Utrecht* should think fit to say, that as to the
 • Restitution of the Estates belonging to the Order of
 • *Maltha*, Application must be made to a Court of
 • Justice. For besides, that the Lords the States of
 • *Utrecht* will not acknowledge any Jurisdiction out of
 • their Province, they would thus be Judges of their
 • own Cause; and the Proceeding of the Town of *Ni-*
 • *megen* shews, 'tis as hard to get a Sentence execu-
 • ted as to obtain it; further, should not the Province
 • of *Utrecht* put the Order in Possession of its Estate,
 • since 'twas dispossest by meer Violence, and the Pro-
 • vince cannot alledge any one Title by which she
 • acquir'd the Possession of it, there being no Gift, no
 • Will, no Sale, no Decree, no Confiscation, and in a
 • Word, no Pretence to take it away from innocent
 • Persons, who live in Obedience to the State, and as
 • faithful Subjects might enjoy the same Privileges,
 • Liberties

' Liberties and Advantages, which thro' the Goodness
 ' of God the rest of the Subjects of this State enjoy.
 ' His Majesty in recommending the Restitution of
 ' the Estates of the Order in general, includes parti-
 ' cularly that of the Lands which the Town of *Nime-*
 ' *guen* possesses, and the Execution of the Sentence gi-
 ' ven at *Gueldre*, the 19th of *December*, 1646, by the
 ' Court of Justice, strengthen'd with the Votes of eight
 ' Deputies of the States of the Province; for the
 ' Town keeping the Possession of an Estate it ill ac-
 ' quir'd, and which it has been condemn'd to restore,
 ' his Majesty thinks your Lordships, by Vertue of your
 ' Union, and for the Preservation of good Govern-
 ' ment, ought to see that Sentence executed, and not
 ' let a particular Town oppose the Judgment of the
 ' Sovereign Court of the Province, to prevent the In-
 ' conveniences which may arise from the Refusal, as
 ' your Lordships very well observ'd in your Resolu-
 ' tion of the 2d of *August*, 1658, on this same Af-
 ' fair.

' This is what I was willing to add to what I repre-
 ' sented on this Subject a Year ago, and to what has
 ' been so often urg'd by those who have had the Ho-
 ' nour of my Employment before me; and the King
 ' my Master commanded me to have this Audience,
 ' on purpose to desire your Lordships, as I do earnest-
 ' ly, and with all Affection, in his Majesty's Name,
 ' to give me a Categorical Answer concerning this Af-
 ' fair; that the Order being satisfy'd, your Lordships
 ' may reap the Glory that it will render you, or being
 ' deny'd, may make use of the Means which Nature,
 ' and Divine and Human Laws furnish such with as
 ' have been refus'd Justice. Done at the *Hague*, *A-*
pril 1, 1664.

Sign'd,

D'ESTRADES.

Memo.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 16, 1664.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, thought, that at his Audience on the first of this Month he said all that was necessary, to oblige your Lordships to give him a positive and categorical Answer to the Instances the King his Master has us'd for above these twenty Years, for the Restitution of the Commanderies and Lands in these Provinces belonging to the Order of *Malta*. He thought also, he said enough to convince those who possess them without any Title or Colour of the Injustice of their Proceedings, and had reason to hope your Lordships would reflect thereon, and perform the Promises that have been made by word of Mouth and in Writing, and put a happy Issue to this Affair, that you would consider his Majesty's lively Recommendations and Instances, and shew on this Occasion your love to Justice and Equity; but finding all the Offices he and his Predecessors have us'd to be without Effect, and having moreover understood that Monsieur *Van Ommeren*, the first Commissioner for this Affair, sets out to Morrow for *Guelderland*, he's oblig'd; tho' with great Regret, to declare to your Lordships, that if you suffer Monsieur *Van Ommeren* to depart before he makes his Report, and your Lordships have given the King the Answer you promis'd him, and which you owe to Justice without his Intercession, the said Ambassador Extraordinary will take it for an *absolute Refusal*, and manifest Denial of Justice, and makes his solemn Protestations; as also dismiss the Agents of the Order, who have languish'd and spent themselves here above

twenty

• twenty Years, and give the King his Master Advice
 • of it, leaving him to act as he shall think fit for the
 • Preservation of his Reputation.

• The said Ambassador Extraordinary, to shew that
 • the King is, on his side, ready punctually to execute the Treaty made between his Majesty and your
 • Lordships, and do you Justice in every thing that can
 • reasonably be desir'd of him in your behalf, at the
 • same time presents the Memorial Monsieur *Boreel*
 • gave his Majesty, mark'd in the Margin, and sign'd
 • by Monsieur *de Lionne*, Secretary of State, which
 • the said Ambassador hopes will be to your Lordships
 • Satisfaction. Done at the *Hague*, April 16, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

*From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de
 Lionne; April 17, 1664.*

I Receiv'd your Dispatch, and have read over all the
 Dispatches of the first six Months of the last Year.
 I find only what you have observ'd of the coming of
 the two Deputies that can embarrass Monsieur *de Wit*;
 but as he believes, with you, 'tis a Fiction, no great
 hurt can be done him on that Account, and he will
 not fail to disown it all, according to your Advice.
 He's very well pleas'd with the Assurances given him
 of the King's Protection, and that in the Project of
 the Treaty nothing can be prov'd by original Papers,
 but only Copies, to which Faith is not to be given,
 tho' the Traitor might forge them to sell his Wares
 the dearer to such as he believes will be most fond of
 them.

He very dextrously made the Assembly of *Holland*
 break up eight Days sooner than they should have
 done. When he has well concerted his Measures, he
 will bring them together again; I believe 'twill be a-
 bout

bout the beginning of *May*. He appears to me to be very well dispos'd to every thing that has Relation to the King's Service.

*Memorial from the King to the Count
D'Estrades: April 23, 1664.*

THIS Truth plainly appears by the Memorial the said *Sieur de Wit* drew up himself to be communicated to his Friends, of which the said *Sieur d'Estrades* sent a Copy hither with his Dispatch of the 7th of *March*. For whereas, before his Majesty shew'd this Indifference, every thing that came hither from *Holland* was only Threats or Fears which the said *Sieur de Wit* gave of the Resolutions the States might take as to the Negotiation of *Don Estiven de Gamarra*, the said Memorial spoke otherwise, and shew'd the Fault the States wou'd commit in quitting an ancient, solid and potent Friendship, for a new, uncertain, weak and ruinous League; and the *Sieur de Wit* himself very obligingly communicated this Piece to the said *Sieur d'Estrades*, tho' it contains and discovers several things in which this Crown might make an Advantage of the *United-Provinces*. As when the said *de Wit* sets forth the absolute Necessity they have of his Majesty's Protection, without which they had already been involv'd in a new War with *England*. So great a Change as this cannot probably be attributed, as has been said, to any thing but his Majesty's Conduct, by seeming not to value all the Threats and Insinuations of fearing other Leagues, and the Vigour with which the said *Sieur d'Estrades* gave the said *Sieur de Wit*, to understand that any new Treaty the States should conclude with *Spain*, would be taken as an Infraction, and break the late Alliance; and as in Physick, they never fail to use the same Remedies, the Vertue of which has been

• been experienc'd by some good Effects; so Prudence
 • also requires that in Political Affairs we observe the
 • same Conduct, and preferably to all others use the
 • same Means which have once succeeded. His Maje-
 • sty says, that in all likelihood Don *Esteven de*
 • *Gamarre's* Negotiation will be ruin'd more by seem-
 • ing to despise it, and as if we believ'd the States were
 • not capable of taking so great a Step, than by letting
 • them see we are here under any Apprehensions of
 • this pretended League of the seventeen Provinces.

• If all the weighty Considerations contain'd in the
 • *Sieur de Wit's* Memorial, should not sufficiently dis-
 • swade them from this Junction of Forces and In-
 • terests with the Crown of *Spain*; there is besides a
 • particular Reason which of it self is thought enough
 • to keep them from thinking of it in this Juncture
 • of Affairs, and that is the great Disposition of the
 • *English* to declare War with them, if they were not
 • prevented by the Consideration of the Guaranty
 • they know the King has promis'd the *United-Pro-*
 • *vinces* by the Treaty of 1662. For as the States
 • very well imagine, that as soon as they have conclu-
 • ded a Union with *Spain*, which must be against the
 • King, they not only cannot make any dependance on
 • the said Guaranty, but will soon see a close Alliance
 • form'd between his Majesty and the King of *England*.
 • 'Tis to be believ'd therefore, they will think of it a
 • long time, before, on simple Conjectures and ill
 • grounded ones, they'll resolve to change the firm,
 • sincere and powerful Friendship of one King for ano-
 • ther, which perhaps has not either of those three so
 • desirable Qualities.

• Not that, after all, one should lose sight of Don
 • *Esteven de Gamarre* in all his Proceedings, but they
 • seem to be with so much the more ease, and with-
 • out appearance to be obstructed; for that, besides the
 • above-hinted Considerations, 'tis already known, from
 • a good Hand, he has not receiv'd a Penny to be laid
 • out towards gaining Protectors for his Proposal, and
 • 'tis

'tis moreover very hard to make seven Provinces alter their Minds, and unanimously change as it were from black to white, from Maxims contrary to their first Establishment, and to what they lately treated of with this Crown, at least without a great deal of Time, Care, Application and Expence, all which will furnish the means to find out suitable Remedies, when the thing is in too great forwardness. On this Foundation presuppos'd, there's not much at present to be fear'd from this pretended defensive League. 'Tis not to be doubted, but the new Treaty the *Sieur de Wit* has propos'd, by which they would, to gratifie and oblige the States by easing 'em of a few very unjust Jealousies, absolutely tye up his Majesty's Hands, so as not to be able to enterprize any thing in the Prosecution of his Rights, but in certain Cases, and those with such Restrictions, that they reduce the said Rights to almost nothing; such a Treaty must of any thing in the World be least for the King's Service, and nothing is to be more avoided. The Reasons would be too long to Enumerate; but besides that the said *Sieur d'Estrades* will easily comprehend them, they are explain'd to the *Sieur Batailler*, who will much better inform him of them, *viva voce*. The Substance of the whole Matter, for which this Memorial is of any Importance, consists of two or three Words only, that the *Sieur d'Estrades* should know his Majesty is convinc'd, the best Service which can be done on this Occasion is to spin it out into as great Length as possible, not only without concluding any thing, but without engaging in any thing tending to a Conclusion, and that under the best Pretexts can be thought of to prevent his Majesty's true Design being known, which is to remain Free without digging himself Pits, that will hinder his going directly and easily as Conjunctions may offer, whether his Glory, his Advantage, and the good of his State may call him. If the Negotiation goes forward, it be-
ing

ing doubtless not proper to break it off quite, but to
 trifle in it, and hinder Don *Estevan de Gamarre's* be-
 ing entirely discourag'd, there will happen Difficul-
 ties and Disputes enough in this Affair, which will
 naturally make it hang, without any Bodies perceiving
 the *Sieur d'Estrades* contributes to the Delays it
 meets with. The intricatest Part of it to get out
 of will be, if the *Sieur d'Estrades* be prest to declare,
 whether he's ready to sign the Project the King him-
 self sent; for after having well examin'd every thing,
 his Majesty is now of Opinion, 'twould be very pre-
 judicial to him to finish this Negotiation, even in
 the Terms of the said Project, for the Reasons the
Sieur Batailler has been particularly told, and will ac-
 quaint the *Sieur d'Estrades* with 'em.

In this Case, that is, if he is prest to this Decla-
 ration, he may answer by a contrary Question; if
 the States are ready to sign the said Project, and if
 in the End they reply affirmatively; he may demand
 time to know the King's Pleasure as to some certain
 Points in that Treaty, or say he waps Information,
 and would have the Matter made clearer to him, that
 he might not mistake. If the said *Sieur d'Estrades* is
 ask'd any thing about the King's Inquiry into the
 Queen's Rights, if they seem to want to know what
 the King has found out, and what is his Majesty's O-
 pinion of it, the said *Sieur d'Estrades* shall answer, his
 Majesty writes him only in general Terms that he finds
 his Right abundantly, and beyond what he expected,
 when he began the Inquiry. If they demand to have
 it communicated to them, the said *Sieur d'Estrades*
 shall reply, he durst not write his Majesty, nor press
 him thereon, because he had already complain'd to
 him, that a Friend of the *Sieur de Wit's*, in whom he
 confided, thinking he might safely do it, had betray'd
 his Trust, and given important and very particular
 Information to the *Spanish* Ambassador to prevent
 what was a-foot; and after such a Thing as that the
 said

'said *Sieur d'Estrades* thought his Majesty would not expose himself to the same Inconveniencies, by trusting things which are neither necessary nor proper to be trusted.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 8, 1664.

ON the Return of the *Sieur Batailler*, I was fully inform'd of your Majesty's Intention with respect to the Negotiation about which he was sent, and the Reasons your Majesty had to carry your self as you did. After having seriously consider'd them, and reflected on them with my utmost care, I confess, Sir, the only way for the good of your Service, and the Preservation of the Rights you may one Day have to the *Netherlands*, is not to be bound to any Conditions, but for your Majesty to be left at full Liberty to do, when time shall serve, what you shall think fit; and when in my former Dispatches, I mention'd other Ways propos'd to me by *Monsieur de Wit*, which seem'd to confine you in favour of the States, 'twas with a Design to leave it to your Majesty to consider the Truth or Artifice that such an able Minister as he might suggest; and reserve for my self the sole Glory of obeying your Will, as I shall do now that is it made known to me. I thought it my Duty to follow it exactly, and in the Sense of the Memorial that was brought me. I had no other means of spinning out this Affair, but to repeat to *Monsieur de Wit*, that thro' the Infidelity of some in whom he trusted, the *Spaniards* had come to the Knowledge of the Negotiation; that 'twas above six Months ago I complain'd to him some of his Party had given Information to the Court of *Madrid*, to pay forthwith the Queen's Dower to invalidate your Majesty's Right to *Flanders*; that as he had shewn, in the Projects which had been drawn up concerning this

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Affair,

Affair, his Desire to be careful not to seem to go directly against the Truth of the late Treaties with *Spain*; so it was your Majesty's Concern also to be as careful. That 'twould be a Proceeding not justifiable, if after receiving this Advice the projected Treaty should be concluded, that it should be left to Time to dissipate Suspensions, and that a more favourable Opportunity might happen, wherein the propos'd Conditions might be executed more advantageously to both States; nay with more Safety to *France*. That *Holland* only engaging at present, 'twas not certain the States-General wou'd approve the Treaty when the time should come, and thus your Majesty would be bound, and they not being bound. Accidents might happen in his Person which might ruin all his Work. That he knew by Experience to what Change a little Populace was liable, and 'twas not prudent to expose ones self to those Hazards; that besides your Majesty had so little Reason to be satisfy'd with them in the Business of *Maloba*, that he could not promise himself any Particular Token of Defence in any Affair of such Consequence as that propos'd in the Project, because in the former they had taken no Resolution with which he had Reason to be content. That as to *Gamarre's* League, I must tell him freely, as a Friend to your Majesty, that you were not afraid of its Success, that he knew too well the Interest of this State to engage it in a Step so contrary to its Maxims; but if out of Politicks ill understood, the Lords the States should join in with it, the end of this League being directly against your Majesty's Interests, 'twould be taken for a Rupture, which wou'd produce ill Effects, as he might easily foresee; and the time to form this new Union wou'd be more proper when the King of *Spain* dy'd, and the Conditions much more certain when they should be agreed to by the States-General, than if they were unseasonably agreed upon with the States of *Holland*; that I might in the mean time assure him, your Majesty would undertake nothing against the Low-Coun-

series, but justly and with the Participation of your Allies, and will then hearken to all the Precautions they would take with you for their Security, if that of your Affection was not sufficient; that the *Sieur Bezallier* was order'd to give him the same Assurances, and particularly to declare to him what Esteem your Majesty had for his Friendship, of which he had receiv'd sensible Marks in the whole Management of this Negotiation, and in return of which he might depend on your Protection. This, Sir, was my Discourse with *Monfieur de Wit*, to which I made the *Sieur Bezallier* add Civilities and Compliments, confirming what I had said, and flattering him all the ways we could,

He heard all like a Man who expected it, and had guess'd as much by your Majesty's delaying to declare your Resolutions, from which he imagin'd they would not be what he would have had them. And amidst all the Colours I made use of to justify your Intentions, he saw your Majesty pursu'd your true Interests, and could not resolve to destroy them by disadvantageous Conditions, such as these were he had propos'd; he reply'd, he believ'd the Projects that had been set a-foot would have been for your Majesty's Advantage, and the Conditions in Dispute might easily have been adjusted. That they were also for the safety of their State. That he did not see how either Side need fear being surpris'd, and that those Conditions made him wish the Affair had ended in a Treaty; but since your Majesty had Reasons to put it off to another time, they must be submitted to; and he would in the mean while so manage his Friends as to keep them well affected to your Interests, as he had brought them to be; that he would satisfy them as to the Fears they were in on account of the Memorial he had shewn them on *Gamarre's* League, and make them apprehensive of the Consequences; but as they were susceptible of any Apprehensions of your Majesty's aggrandizing your self, he could not assure me the *Spaniards*

niards would not in this Interval ingage 'em in other Interests. That if the Emperor could make a Peace, he would be sure to court a League for the Preservation of the Seventeen Provinces, which would be soon effected; that he knew the Proposals that had been made him of a Partition of the King of *Spain's* Dominions, that 'twas what he would have hinted to me a Month ago, when he said he would in time tell me something, as I wrote your Majesty in my Dispatch of the 9th of the last Month, that he attributed the delaying to send back the *Sieur Batailler* to the Expectation of hearing what Resolutions would be taken on those Proposals; that it may very well happen that the Emperor by this means discovering your Majesty's Design, might endeavour to defend himself against them, and invite all the Princes of *Lower Germany* to join with him in it; that the Affair of *Mattha* proceeded more from the natural Constitution of their State, which occasion'd extraordinary Delays in all Resolutions, than any Coldness in them to do Honour to your Majesty's Mediation. But he assur'd me, he would in ten Days time give me a positive Answer therein; that he was infinitely oblig'd to your Majesty, for the Honour you had done him in promising him your Protection, and would let no Opportunity slip to shew his Gratitude. I made no Reply to any thing but the Partition propos'd to the Emperor, of which I assur'd him, I had no manner of Knowledge, and did not believe 'twas done with his. Your Majesty will by this Discourse perceive *Monseigneur de Wit* was already convinc'd, there were no hopes of this Project's succeeding, after your Majesty had shewn a Contempt of *Gamarre's* League, since he made no Enquiries into the Queen's Rights, nor ask'd me any Questions about the Conditions of the Project; so that I suppose, after having made this Attempt for the Security of the Provinces, he will content himself with having by this means shewn his Application and Fidelity to the good of the Republick, that he will persuade his Friends to remain in your Majesty's

Majesty's Alliance, and that 'twill be for his own private Interest, so that there's nothing to be fear'd, and things go here as well as your Majesty could have desir'd them. Yesterday in the Afternoon as I was going home, I met Monsieur the Prince of Orange full-but at the *Vorhout*; and my People telling me his Coachman would have the Barrier, which is the Place of Honour there occupy'd, my Coachman, who had Orders always to keep it, did the same; I at the same time order'd every one who ran from my House, which is hard by, and all my Friends who came about me, not to come to any Action, to avoid a Disorder which had been infallible, and very great, on account of the affluence of People that crowded up to the Prince from a neighbouring Place, where there's now a Fair kept at the *Hague*. Our Coaches being thus stop'd, Monsieur *de Wit* came up and spoke to me, I told him, I could not imagine what the Prince's People meant by such a Contest, that I did not know before that the Lords the States had a Sovereign to dispute Precedence with your Majesty's Ambassadors, that I should complain of it to you: He seem'd to disapprove of this Proceeding, and went to the Prince, who presently sent a Gentleman to Madam the Princess Dowager, to tell her the Advice Monsieur *de Wit* had given him, which was to get out into the Walk within the Barriers and make his Coach turn about, which was done when the Gentleman return'd, so that mine pass'd on in the Place which was due to me. I let Madam the Dowager know what had happen'd by a third Person, and that being oblig'd to give your Majesty an Account of this Action, I should be glad, not to do the Prince any Prejudice, to understand whether this ill Conduct ought to be imputed to his Governor? She answer'd, 'twas the King of *England* who must contest that Matter, that she left the Care of her Son to him, but that she did not approve of the Action. I cannot tell whether it has not been put into her Head, to maintain this Dispute as eldest Daughter of

England. I think 'tis very odd in a Strange Country. I am in this place oblig'd to communicate to your Majesty a piece of News, which the Count *de la Tienne* writes to *Gamarre*, that *Fanjbard* is order'd by the King his Master to dispute Precedence at *Madrid* with the Archbishop of *Ambrus*.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 29, 1664.

THE Bishop of *Munster* not having ratify'd the Articles to which his Envoy had agreed, the Lords the States have sent Orders to Prince *William* to continue his March, and immediately to fall on the Fort in dispute, about which he has now taken up his Quarters. The Trenches are open'd, and some Officers have been kill'd, among whom is the Lieutenant-Colonel of *de Haastrike's* Regiment of Foot; but 'tis pretended this War will soon be ended, either by the taking of the said Fort, or an Accommodation to prevent its Surrender, the Negotiation being carry'd on notwithstanding the Siege.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
May 30, 1664.

I Hear they murmur, at the Court of *England*, at the Order Madam the Princess of *Orange* sent her Son, to get out of his Coach and walk, and to make his Coach turn about, when you both met at the Barriers at the *Hague*; and they write me, some body said you have pretended to more from the Prince than all other Ambassadors from the Princes his Ancestors, who had not as this has the Honour to be a King's Grandson. I don't for all that alter my Sentiments, that you could have

have behav'd your self otherwise than you did; for the Quality of a King's Grandson by the Woman's side is nothing to the Case in Question, for besides the Sons and Brothers of Kings, no other is in any thing allow'd to be a Prince of the Blood, nor has the Honour paid him; however, I should be glad to be inform'd how my Ambassadors have carry'd themselves on the like Occasions to the Prince of Orange, this Prince's Predecessors, of which no Body can have more Knowledge than your self.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King;
June 5, 1664.

I Thought also 'twas for your Majesty's Service to acquaint Monsieur de *W* with what you did me the Honour to write me on this Subject, that the Lords the States might prevent the like Contests for the future, and comprehend how disadvantageous it would be to them, if, to have Justice done, your Majesty should be oblig'd to make a formal Complaint, and to avoid 'em change the Honour he did 'em, to have an Ambassador with them, to sending a Resident. He seem'd to be satisfy'd with the Reasons I urg'd thereon, and told me a thing which I had already taken notice of, that the Order which was publish'd the Day after the Action, requiring all the Subjects of the States, of whatever Quality and Condition, to begin the Course on the left Side of the Barrier, was only to oblige the Prince as a Subject to comply with it, and make him thus avoid all Dispute with me; and 'tis likely he will make none any more, tho' an Opportunity should offer, for meeting three Days ago at a Play given by Monsieur the Duke de *la Noire*, to Madam the Princess de *Tarente*, I took the Right of all, and the Prince was on my Left; on the same Line below the Duke.

I a long while have expected Monsieur de Witt would talk to me about the Difference with *England*. I turn'd off the hints he several Times gave me, of it to oblige him to explain himself more clearly; and to make him of himself give into your Majesty's Design and Interest, that the States should have recourse to your Mediation; at last he came to me on purpose, having demanded Audience of me two Days before, wherein he enumerated all the Complaints of *England*, the Foundation of the War with which she threatens this State, and told me the Lords the States had order'd him to communicate it to me. That I might be the more particularly inform'd of the whole, and give your Majesty the more exact Account, he sent me this Morning the Memorials hereto annex'd, containing the Particulars of all the Demands of the *English*, and the Reasons the Lords the States have not to comply with you; if the Facts averr'd are true and justifiable in the Tenor of the said Memorials, never Claims appear'd so ill grounded as these. He added, that this Difference arose on account of *Downing's* Interest only, who had bought the pretended Rights of the Merchants concern'd in two Ships, the *Bonaventure* and the *Hope*, for a trifle; that to this end he clam'd, the King of *England's* Council, raising imaginary Grievances and Injuries receiv'd at Sea by the *English*, which they never suffer'd; that if so slight and unjust an Occasion was capable of bringing a War on them, they should have this Advantage to let all *Europe* know the Violence and Injustice which engag'd 'em in it. That they were making Preparations not to be surpriz'd, that they had a hundred Men of War ready to put to Sea on a Rupture, and Funds to maintain 'em 16 Months; but they did not value those Advantages as any thing in Comparison of your Majesty's Protection, and the Succours they promis'd themselves from you on account of the Friendship, which made their Alliance dear, and the Engagement your Majesty had enter'd into with them

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by the late Treaty; that they began by informing you with the Occasion of the War, before they came to a Representation of the Interest your Majesty was oblig'd to have in it.

I reply'd, the Lords the States were not mistaken in the Opinion, they had conceiv'd of your Majesty's favourable Sentiments, for their Interests in the threaten'd War; that they would always find you dispos'd to follow the Motions of the Friendship you had for their State, and the Obligations of your Treaties; but as the Grounds of it seem'd very weak by what he had told me of it, I thought it ought to be rather the Subject of a Negotiation, than a War attended with all the Preparations he had been telling me of; that I would give your Majesty an exact Account of it, and afterwards let him know your Answer. I did not think it proper to say more, and that 'twas enough to give him to understand, 'twas an Affair rather to be ended by an Accommodation than push'd on to a War, and prevent the States making any present Demands of your Majesty of whatever you may be oblig'd to by the Treaty if the Rupture happens, leaving your Majesty at full Liberty to make what Answer you please, and thereby put 'em on a Necessity of demanding your Mediation as the safest and least expensive Way. Your Majesty will be pleas'd to let me know how far I shall go on this Occasion, and how you will have me manage this Matter, for I doubt not the Affair must end thus; and, besides the Obligation the Lords the States will lye under to your Majesty, for delivering 'em from the most dangerous War which could happen to 'em, you'll also have the Glory of obliging *England* to a Peace, which will appear just in the Sight of all *Europe*. I wait for your Majesty's Orders herein, which I shall strictly obey.

I took hold of the Opportunity of this Conference, and the States standing in need of your Majesty's Mediation, to complain of that which I have hitherto employ'd to no purpose about the Affair of *Malta*, and
repre-

represented that your Majesty, being in the end press'd by the great Master to disengage him from his Promise, would be oblig'd to leave him to try other means of procuring the Justice he had so long in vain demanded. Monsieur *de Wit* reply'd, the Obstinacy of the single Province of *Utrecht* was the Occasion of it; that the Estates claim'd were in the Possession of the most powerful of the Province, who could not be brought to consent to part with them; that he had examin'd whether the Authority of the States-General, to avoid a War, could not compel 'em to do it by Virtue of the Union, and to accept of an Equivalent in Lands within the Limits of the Sovereignty of *Holland*; that he found it could not be done, but that while I was getting the Agents of the Order to come hither, and enter their Protest against the States Denial of Justice, he would try one Effort more to bring the Province of *Utrecht* to Reason, which was all that could be expected from him. He offer'd to enter into a Treaty with me for the Six Provinces, provided that 'twas without any Reservation as to what relates to *Utrecht*; but as the latter has no Commerce at Sea, 'twould indeed be to renounce all that could be pretended to; besides, the Agents of *Malta* are order'd to treat only with the Seven Provinces all together. I'll manage the Matter as well as I can, but I find the Order will at last be oblig'd to grant Reprizals to do themselves justice.

A Cessation of Arms is agreed on for two Days in the Siege of *Vilderkans*, but the Conditions of the Evacuation of the said Fort not being yet agreed on the Works are continu'd, and were advanc'd the first of this Month to the edge of the Counterscarp, whose Ditch and Pallisade must be pass'd to come at the Body of the Place, where there is another Pallisade; so that the Affair may be prolong'd to the twentieth, and if the Bishop of *Munster's* Men understood how to defend a Place a little, or he could make use of 'em to attempt to succour it, 'twould be easie for him to pre-
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serve this, because it lies in a Morass, and the Army-Quarters can have no Communication, but by a round-about Way of four Leagues.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
June 12, 1664.

I Receiv'd your Majesty's Dispatch of the 30th of the last Month, to which I shall reply by this. As to what has been told me, that I should not pretend to more Honours from Monsieur the Prince of Orange, than those Ambassadors who preceded me receiv'd from his Predecessors, I do not know what they mean by it; for to comply with that Example, the Prince should be receiv'd and acknowledg'd by the Lords the States in the same Authority as his said Predecessors had, and even then I maintain he would have no Right to raise the Dispute his Governor made him have with me. For 'tis certain, all who ever were in the Courts of the Princes of Orange, Maurice and Henry, agree, that they receiv'd Ambassadors a League from the Hague, in the Name of the State, and conducted them Home. That in Places of Ceremony the Ambassadors had Precedence, and at Feasts, Councils, and third Places, they always had the Hand of them, and I have several times been at the Courte in Prince Henry's Coach, when meeting Monsieur de la Thillierie, he gave him the Barriet; and dining once at Prince Maurice of Nassau's, Monsieur the Prince of Orange, Henry, gave the chief Place to Monsieur de Charnace; of this Custom, establish'd by an infinite number of Examples, there's nothing chang'd but the Reception of Ambassadors out of the Hague, in which Prince Henry began first to Excuse himself under Pretext of the Court, when Messieurs d'Avaux and de Serriere were at Munster; and with which, after his Death, his Son Prince Wil-

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liam dissent'd, without any general Excuse to all Ambassadors. After these Facts, which cannot be contested, your Majesty will perceive I should take care not to say any thing derogatory to this Right, tho' the Prince even was in Possession of his Ancestor's Government; and 'tis not for me to consider he's the King of *England's* Grandson, and descended from *Henry* the Great, to yield him new Honours without any Orders from your Majesty.

As to the Information your Majesty receiv'd, that *Gamarre* had presented a Memorial the first of this Month, in which he renew'd his Instances with the Provinces, 'tis true I heard nothing of it 'till four Days since, when I was told by three of my Friends, who are of the Assembly, that *Gamarre* had solicited them to join in with it at the next Assembly, which will open the 20th of this Month, that *Richard* is gone to the Cities to insinuate the Advantages of this League into the Deputies. The *Spaniards* are preparing to make their last Effort to succeed therein. I have seen *Monseigneur de Wit*, and let him know I was inform'd of all this Industry of theirs; that I was surpriz'd that living together with so much Confidence as we did, he had said nothing of it to me; that your Majesty would certainly draw Consequences from this Proceeding, which might be prejudicial to the State in the present Juncture of Affairs, that you had your self heard of it from other Hands, and that I continu'd to protest that the very Minute the States shew'd the least Disposition to hearken to Proposals so disadvantageous to your Interest, your Majesty would seek out some other Alliances which might weaken that with them, and by which they would receive more Damage than all the Advantages *Spain* made 'em hope for would be able to repay. He answer'd, the Memorials I complain'd of had been put into his Hands the beginning of the last Month, that he had laid them with the rest that were in his Cabinet, and lay there as useless

less Papers; that he could not help receiving it, nor hinder *Gamarre's* Sollicitations, but he said they should have no effect; that he had told me nothing of it, because he thought I would have taken that piece of Confidence for an Artifice tending to renew the propos'd Projects, of which he had no more Thoughts; because your Majesty seem'd to be so far off of them, tho' he was still satisfy'd they were very much for your Advantage; that he had told me his Sentiments with Reference to the last Memorial, as he had done of all the Proceeding; nevertheless he would not answer, that the People, whom the *Spaniards* had mightily alarm'd, on your Majesty's Ambition and great Power, would not at last be brought to hearken to Proposals which seem to them to be very advantageous, and in which they think they do not in any wise injure your Interest, nor the Faith of the late Treaties.

I reply'd, I was convinc'd as well as he the propos'd Project might be executed, by leaving out some things which seem'd to restrain your Majesty's Rights, and that the time might come when they might be comply'd with, if the Lords the States did not change their Conduct, but avoided engaging with the *Spaniards* against your Majesty's Interests by the propos'd League. I thought my self oblig'd to talk thus to him, to let him comprehend the Treaty was not broken off, and get him to slacken the Negotiation with *Gamarre*.

On which I must represent to your Majesty, that I see very plainly, since Monsieur *Batailler* return'd, Monsieur *de Wit* carries himself more reserv'd towards me than he us'd to do, and I do the same with him; that as he has discover'd to what your Majesty's Designs on the *Low-Countries* tend, so he will let no Opportunity slip to provide for the Security of the State, against the Danger with which it seems to be threaten'd by your Majesty's aggrandizing your self; and if he finds
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the League propos'd will do it, he'll not fail to listen to the Proposal. 'Tis possible that he said nothing to me of the last Memorial on this Account, and unless it had come to the Knowledge of some private Persons of the State, thro' *Gamarre's* and *Richand's* Sollicitations, I should have known nothing of it but by your Majesty's Dispatch. For as *Gamarre* never said a Word of what has been treating with me these six Months, so I shall know nothing of what he is negotiating with them, when the *Sieur de Wis* does not think fit to talk to me of it, and the way by which your Majesty found it out is the most certain. *Estreus de Gamarre* parts to Morrow for *Brussels*, whither he goes to confer with *Caraceni*, and is to return by the next Meeting of the States.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: June 19, 1664.

TWAS not hard for me to be satisfy'd, that the Report which is spread of my breaking an Agreement made about the Course of the *Karbow*, comes from a Person who would thereby attack my Conduct, but he's to be pity'd for not laying his Designs better to succeed in them.

All the World knows I never heard of any Convention, and that when the States order'd, to avoid the like Accidents as happen'd between *Downing* and the Duke *d'Ostieing*, that the Barrier should be taken on the Left when the Course began; I took it on the Left the same Day, and have always continu'd so to take it indifferently, and that Day when I met Monsieur the Prince of *Orange* I took it on the Left not with a Design to meet him, for I did not then enter but to keep the Post due to my Character; so, Sir, you may judge how gross their Intention was, who publish'd,

lish'd, I made my Coach turn about on purpose to meet the Prince; what I tell you was seen by Messieurs de Wit, de Merode, and de Ghent, who were at the Course, and a hundred Coaches full of People of Quality. I must add further, that as to this pretended Agreement, the Lords the States declare the Ordinance was for their Subjects only, which shews plainly 'twas not agreed on with the Ambassadors, and a Man must be a great Novice to hearken to such Propositions; but I see all this comes from Monsieur de Thou, who sent one of his Secretaries, call'd Bonnard, here, and he writes him a hundred Fooleries to please his Master, who misses no Opportunity to spread them, in hopes of doing me Mischief. I don't trouble my self much at so unjust a Proceeding, which does him more hurt than me, I only mind my Duty, and to serve the King with Zeal and Affection, my concern is that my Ability is not greater. I receiv'd with a great deal of Joy the News you sent me, of the Confirmation of the Queen's being with Child. Pray God grant their Majesties long to Live.

I expect Messieurs the Commanders Pallares and Villeneuve, to treat about the Estates of the Order; six of the Provinces are agreed on it, only that of Utrecht stands out. Holland labours to get its Consent, but those who govern that City, and are Deputies in the Assembly of the States-General, having acquir'd those Estates which are divided among their Families, 'twill be difficult to bring them to a favourable Resolution; after the Commanders are refus'd, all the Order have to do, is to give out Letters of Reprisals.

I am, &c.

From

From the King, to the Count D'Estrades :

June 20, 1664.

I Was very glad to see what you wrote me, as to the Manner of the Ambassadors of *France*, behaving themselves formerly towards the Princes of *Orange*, even when they held considerable Offices in the State, which this present is not yet possess of. For what they say at *London*, of your pretending to that from him which the other Ambassadors of *France* never pretended to from his Predecessors, is prov'd to be false by the several Examples you instance in; and the *English* have nothing to say, but the weak Reason they alledge, that the present Prince is a King's Grandson, which in another State where he is look'd upon as a Subject is of no weight, and particularly being only a Grandson by the Woman's side. The *Sieur de Wit* had Reason to be Embarrass'd, when you let him see you knew more of the League than he thought you did, or had told you; you could not have said any thing better, nor more forcible than what you told him on his Silence. I observe he made only trivial Excuses, not having told you as he might then have done, had he acted sincerely, that the States at the Instances of *Don Esteven de Gamarre* had resolv'd to, give their Resident at *Madrid* the Quality of Ambassador, that he might with more Dignity and Character assist at the Negotiations, which are pretended to be carrying on in *Spain* with the *English* Ambassador about this League. This Proceeding of the States, or those who are at the Head of their Affairs, is not like that of a true Friend and Alley, for if the Thing is indifferent, they ought not to make a Mystery of it; if it is not, they are by the Law of Alliances oblig'd to give their Confederates notice of what passes, in which his Interest is ever so little concern'd, and perhaps there's an
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express Article hereon in the late Treaty, which I do not now remember, but 'twill be an easie matter for you to prove where you are.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
June 26, 1664.

I Send your Majesty these Memorials, containing the Reasons *Downing* reply'd in 1662, to the States Apology, they being the same he may now make use of; upon which, and what will be represented by Monsieur *Boreel*, your Majesty may make a better Judgment of the Pretensions of that Crown. The Lords the States take Care to inform the Ministers of all the other Princes residing here, of the Reasons they have to defend themselves. They have added to the Ambassador *Van Goch's* Orders since his Departure, a Letter they writ the King of *England*, to complain of the *English* having taken lately the Isle of *Cape Verde*, and three Ships belonging to the *East-India* Company, for which they demand Satisfaction, offering then to give it for what Damages his Subjects can prove to have sustain'd by their Companies. They seem to promise themselves from *Downing*, by the Intercession of Colonel *Killigrew*, (who accompanies the Ambassador, and has particular Access to the King of *England*, and *Monk*) that this Affair will have a favourable Success; and 'tis possible 'tis that retards their Instances with your Majesty for your Mediation. But if the Difficulties augment ever so little, 'tis not to be doubted one of the Parties will be oblig'd to have recourse to it, and the States rather than *England*. I believe your Majesty is well inform'd of *Gamarre's* Brigues to get the States Resident at *Madrid*, to demand the Character of Ambassador. But I have hitherto imputed all the Steps that have been taken in this Affair, as an Effect of Monsieur *de Renswoude's*

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Interest in the Province of *Holland*, who has this Year endeavour'd to procure that Honour for his Son, and to succeed in it made use of *Gamarre's* Instances at the same time to have an Ambassador reside at the Court of *Madrid*, as an Honour belonging to his Master; and I doubt not he thought to oblige *Renswoude* in it: But I did not know there was any Design to qualify him the more by that Character for the Negotiations that are going to be set afoot at *Madrid* between *Spain* and *England*, for the Preservation of the *Low-Countries*, wherein the Propositions of the League will be advanc'd. I must only put your Majesty in Mind, that I have written you already how, since the *Sieur Batailler's* Return, I have observ'd the *Sieur de Wis* carries himself more reserv'd to me, than he did before, that finding himself excluded from the Security, he propos'd to himself to procure for his State by the refusal of his Projects, I doubt not he'll seek for it elsewhere, and *Spain* alone seeming too weak for his Purpose, if he can find a way to engage *England* in this League, I'm satisfy'd he'll let no Opportunity slip to effect it, and will pretend no Reason inferr'd from the last Article can hinder him in it.

I am to add, that I'm inform'd by a good Hand, that to engage *England* in this Interest, they have thoughts in *Spain* to accommodate Matters with *Portugal* by her Mediation, to favour *Fanshaw* in his Pretensions to Precedence of the Archbishop of *Ambros*, for which Occasions are to be contriv'd; and that even *Fanshaw* has Orders from the King his Master, to endeavour after 'em, because 'tis said, he is disgusted with your Majesty, who knows better than I, what a Value to set on this Information, and the weight of these Reflections. I mention both, only that I might omit nothing of my Duty for your Majesty's Service.

This oblig'd me to endeavour to penetrate the *Sieur de Wis's* Sentiments on the League, and to fall again on *Gamarre's* Industry before his Departure, and *Richard's* in his Absence, to get the Proposals of the League

League past in the next Assembly. I gave him again to understand, nothing in the World could so estrange your Majesty from the good Disposition he has towards the Welfare of this State, as his shewing the least Inclination to hearken to the said Proposals; that 'twas even to go against the common Faith of Alliances, and particularly that which had so closely been contracted in the late Treaty with so many Advantages for the States, not to acquaint him with any of the Steps which had been taken towards the League.

He reply'd, that after he had so often declar'd to me, since your Majesty look'd upon those Proposals as prejudicial to your Interest, and might be carry'd thereby to Resolutions contrary to the good of the Alliance, the said Proposals should have no Effect; he then again confirm'd the same thing to me. But as to entering into any particular Communication with me on what had been negotiated therein, he did not think himself oblig'd to do it, either by the Faith of the said Alliance, nor the Inclination he had for our Interests, nor could do it without being guilty of Infidelity to his Masters. So that I expect nothing from him on this Subject, and do not rely much on his Assurances. Your Majesty will hereby perceive what the present Disposition of this Man is, and the Consequences which ought to be drawn from his Behaviour; in this Affair; you will also be pleas'd to let me know your Pleasure, that I may regulate my Conduct by it.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
June 27, 1664.

YOUR Dispatch of the 19th does not oblige me to make any Answer; but to tell you, the more I have consider'd the new Memorials the *Sieur de Wit* gave you relating to the States Difference with *England* about the two Ships the *Hope* and *Bonaventure*, the less do I conceive what the *English* can alledge to ground the Justice of their Pretensions on. However; you must not yet let my Sentiments hereon be known to any one whatsoever, for the Reasons I gave you in my last Letter. I have a long while order'd *English* Horses to be sought for, to send them to the Elector of *Cologne*; but being told he would have them very easie, I have not hitherto met with any that would content him, except what the *Chevalier de Grammont* brought over two Days ago, which I shall keep, if they are such as I desire.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
July 3, 1664.

AFFAIRS are here in the same State they were last Post; only twenty Ships have been order'd to cruize on the Coasts opposite to *England*, and as soon as they have Information of the *India* Fleet they are to meet it, and conduct it safely into the *Texel*.

The Letters which the Ambassador *Van Goche* writes from *England* import, he has had three Audiences on the present Affairs; one of the King, another of the Duke of *York*, and the third of the Chancellor; that the King declar'd to him, he could not refuse to hearken to the Complaints of his Subjects; that 'twas his

his Intention to inquire into the Justice of the Matter, without coming to any Action which might interrupt the good Correspondence he had with the States; that he knew nothing of the Invasion of *Cape-Verde*, of which they complain'd; that he would inform himself of it in order to do them Justice, and wonder'd that on a simple Complaint they should proceed to make such considerable warlike Preparations as they had done in their Ports. What the Duke of *York* and the Chancellor said was much to the same Purpose, excepting that they both aggravated the Interest of the *English* Merchants, the Insults they daily suffer'd in their Trade by the *Dutch* Companies, and the Obligation that lay on the King to make use of all his Authority to procure them immediate Satisfaction. It seems by this, as if things were a little mollify'd, and Monsieur *Van Goch* giving hopes that *Downing* will return in a few Days, 'tis likely he will bring some Proposals with him which may end in an Accommodation. However, they do not abate here any thing of their warlike Preparations.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, July 4, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that by Vertue of a Resolution taken the 16th of May last, on the Demands made in the Name of Monsieur the Duke de Vendome, of Merchandizes taken by Laurence David, the Sieur Gerard, having sufficient Powers so to do, appear'd before the Directors of the East-India Comany at Amsterdam, and

• pursuant to the said Resolution had demanded the
 • Merchandizes which are in their Custody, offering
 • the Bills of Loading, with the necessary Discharges,
 • according to your Lordships Ordonances, which the
 • said Directors refus'd to obey, alledging in their Ex-
 • cuse the same Reasons that had been formerly deba-
 • ted before your Lordships and adjudged null; and as
 • the said Ambassador is inform'd, the said Directors
 • wrote to your Lordships on this Subject the first of
 • this Month, and for the surer Discharge require an
 • expresse and positive Order to restore the said Mer-
 • chandize, notwithstanding the said Exceptions, speci-
 • fying and particularizing the Number of two Cases,
 • and two Bales contain'd in the said Bills of Lading.
 • I pray your Lordships to interpose your Authority
 • herein, and to enjoin them to make the said Restitution
 • at their first Meeting without any delay, to put an End
 • to a Dispute which has lasted so long. Done at the
 • Hague this Fourth of July, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

*From the King to the Lords the States-
 General of the United-Provinces of the
 Low-Countries: July 9, 1664.*

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confede-
 rates, having thought fit for the good of our
 Service to settle an Agent with you, to have the Charge
 of all the Purchases we may make in your Domini-
 ons of Things relating to Sea Affairs, we having receiv'd
 several Testimonies of the Fidelity of ***** *la Garde
 Belin*, Merchant at *Amsterdam*, of his Capacity and Ex-
 perience in such Things, we thought we could not
 make a better Choice than of him for that Employ-
 ment,

ment, and having cast our Eyes on him to serve us hereafter in that Quality, we were willing to give you advice of it by this Letter, and to declare to you at the same time it will be very pleasing to us, if you favour him in the Function and Exercise of his Commission, assuring you we shall be glad to do the same to those that shall be recommended to us by you. Upon which we pray God to have you in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Fontainebleau* the 9th Day of *July*, 1664.

Your good Friend, Allie and Confederat.

De Lionne.

LOUIS.

The Superscription was,

*To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates,
the Lords the States-General of the United-Pro-
vinces of the Low-Countries.*

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :

July 10, 1664.

I Have receiv'd your Majesty's last Dispatch, by which, as you order me, I shall govern my self with Reference to the Affair of *England*. The Letters from the Ambassador *Van Goch* of the same Date, assure the States the King of *England* continues to protest he will do nothing Injurious to the Alliance he has with them, but only promise his Subjects speedy Satisfaction for the Wrongs they can prove they have receiv'd from the *Dutch Companies*. That *Downing* was to depart in two Days to enter into Conferences about it with the States Committee, so that 'tis hop'd this Negotiation will end happily, without coming to any Act of Hostility: All the Preparations in *England* hitherto consist,

consist, as the same Letters say, of seventeen Men of War, which are still in the River of *Thames*; there are thirteen in the Road of *Esquelm*, which are to be join'd in two Days by seventeen from *Amsterdam* and *Zealand*, to compose a Fleet of thirty Ships to Cruize off the Coasts, and wait for the twenty which are gone to meet the *East-India* Fleet. Monsieur *d'Obdam* is to command them, and in ten Days at farthest he thinks to go aboard to that purpose; this is what will quicken the Negotiation the most of any thing, and for fear of interrupting it, the States have refus'd the *East-India* Company three Men of War which they demanded of them to go and meet these Ships.

Your Majesty knows better than I, what use is to be made of this Information; but since you leave it to my Choice to speak to Monsieur *de Wit*, or to say nothing to him, I have chosen the latter, not to seem to go back from the Declarations I have made him, that your Majesty was not alarm'd at *Gamarre's* Propositions, that you thought 'em disadvantageous to the Lords the States, and that if they were receiv'd you would not be hinder'd from taking what Measures you pleas'd. Tho' this League is push'd on in *Spain*, 'twill be a hard matter for those I manage for your Majesty's Service not to come to the Knowledge of it. I may be inform'd of it by them, and then shall have an Occasion to act after another Manner, and shall do no Mischief while I'm expecting it.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 July 11, 1664.

AFTER which I will tell you, that I have been silent with respect to the Differences that have lately arisen between the King of *Great Britain* and the *United-Provinces*, because, I thought, that some Sums of Money being only in Question to make Satisfaction for,

for the pretended taking of two Ships, and the Parties having in my Opinion great Interest on both sides not to come to a Rupture, the Affair would be easily accommodated by way of Negotiation; especially when I consider'd the States-General had immediately appointed an Ambassador, and sent him away in haste, with a Design, as one would have thought, to give the said King reasonable Satisfaction; but understanding to day, by Advice from both sides, that Things tend more and more to a Breach, and perceiving besides that the least Accident may exasperate each of 'em further; that the Preparations 'at Sea are carry'd on with great Application and Expence, my sincere Affection for the Welfare and Quiet of both States will not suffer me to be any longer silent, and I desire as soon as this Letter comes to your Hand, that you'll demand express Audience of the States-General; wherein, after having explain'd to them what I have been telling you, of the Causes of my saying nothing of this Difference before, you may livelyly represent to them how much every one ought in Prudence to avoid a War as much as they can, the Events of it, be the Party ever so powerful, being generally, and especially at Sea, at the disposal of Fortune; how much the Duration of a good Peace is preferable even to the Advantages that one might probably expect from taking up Arms; how much their Trade, on which their State, as they themselves confess, principally depends, may suffer in all Parts of the World by a War with *England*; and that I therefore exhort them, as much as is possible for me to do, out of pure and sincere Friendship, to forward a good Agreement by their Readiness to a Compliance on their Part; as on the other I have charg'd the *Sieur de Comminges* to do the same good Offices in my Name with the King of *England*, who I'm sure will pay a Deference to us. You may add afterwards, that if the said King and the States think my Mediation may be useful to promote a good Accommodation, I offer it heartily and sincerely to both of 'em, without any other

other View or Interest than the Advantage and reciprocal Satisfaction of both Parties, which I shall propose to my self as the only Object of my Conduct in this Negotiation; if my Offer is accepted, there is even a more speedy and certain Way to preserve the Peace between the two Nations, which would be to make me Arbitrator of their Differences, submitting 'em to my Judgment, and obliging both Sides to accomplish it, and in the mean while stopping all Preparations for War, in which they'll lay out a great deal of Mony that will be useless to 'em in case of an Accommodation; but since it may be thought, tho' falsely, I in this have only my proper Glory in view, I don't desire you should make this Proposal your self, but only accept it in my Name, if they think of it themselves.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 July 17, 1664.

WHEN I was inform'd, by your Majesty's Dispatch of the 11th of this Month, of your Intentions, with respect to the Affair of *England*, I visited Monsieur *de Wit* to acquaint him with the Reasons you had to be silent on that Subject. hitherto, and those you had, now you saw more clearly into the King of *England's* Designs to break it, to incline him to Peace, by the Instances Monsieur *de Cominges* is order'd to use with him in *England*, and that your Majesty had order'd me at the same time to do the like good Offices with the States, and even to offer his Mediation to terminate their Differences amicably, in case the Offer he had caus'd to be made in *England* was accepted; and to explain to them more largely all the Considerations, which had prevail'd with your Majesty to enter into their Interests, I was order'd to demand an Audience; but before that I was willing to communicate every thing to him, to continue to carry my self

self towards him with the same Confidence, which your Majesty had hitherto approv'd of. He answer'd, he was very much oblig'd to your Majesty for your way of Proceeding with him, and to return this Confidence, he could assure your Majesty the States would be sensibly affected with the Offers you made 'em of your Mediation, that they would gladly accept of them, and provided the King of *England* did the same, there were Grounds to hope a good Accommodation might be brought about; that *Downing* was expected back, but there was no great room for Hope as things now stood, by the Ambassador *Van Goch's* last Account of them.

From thence, I proceeded with him to your Majesty's just Resentment of the Ambassador *Boreel's* Behaviour, treating his Advice as ridiculous, and what did not deserve the least Justification from sensible Persons. I urg'd to him, that it might however produce ill Effects among the People; that your Majesty's Patience would at last be tir'd out by a Conduct so different from that of a wise Minister, and that I had Orders to demand his being recall'd.

He answer'd as to that Article, that he knew as well as I the *Sieur Boreel's* ill Conduct, and was as much convinc'd of it as your Majesty could be; that within these few Days he had been trying to get him recall'd, foreseeing 'twas a piece of Satisfaction which sooner or later could not be deny'd your Majesty; that to do it with Honour, and without the City of *Amsterdam's* complaining of it, she having nam'd him, he had propos'd the giving him a Place in the Council of State worth 3000 Livres a Year, and to add to it a Pension of as much, and that his Place might be supply'd by Monsieur *Van Benningen*, but that he was a Man who lov'd his Ease, and out of a particular Philosophical Humour shun'd Employs, on which score he was not sure he would accept of this, tho' he seem'd to be the fittest for it of any Man. I took him up there, and put him in Mind of what he had told me when we
were

were about our Projects, of his being stubborn and opiniated, and what a Trouble he had to manage him, tho' he was his good Friend; on which account he would be more likely to embroil us, than preserve our good Correspondence, and that 'twould be better to let him Philosophize at Home, than to introduce him into such a Court as that of *France*, where a Man of such a Humour would not be very welcome. That in the Account I had given your Majesty of every thing which had past between us, I had not omitted letting you know the Character of this Man, which had certainly begot such an Opinion of him in you, that you would not be pleas'd with his being appointed; his Obstinacy being a very ill Quality in a Minister to forward the Affairs he is entrusted with. Monsieur *de Wis* insisted on it, telling me he had try'd him, and found he easily acquir'd the Manners of the Place to which he was sent; that before he went to *Denmark* he rail'd at that Kingdom, and when he was there, and since his Return, he has the most maintain'd her Interest; that he'll do the same with Respect to *France* at his Return from his Embassy, and will never have done crying up her Grandeur. Besides, there were not many Persons in the City of *Amsterdam* proper for this Employment, and that City has the Preference of all others in appointing one for it: However, Means must be us'd to give your Majesty Satisfaction on this Point, in case you persisted to have him excluded, and 'twould be a sure one to obtain it if you order'd me to insist upon it; but 'twould take up a great deal of time to manage the Province thereon. In the mean while, he did not think it proper that I should put in a formal Complaint against Monsieur *Boreel* in my Audience, because, tho' the States-General resolv'd on the Revocation, the Province of *Holland* would certainly oppose it, and this Contest would ruin the Expedients already propos'd to effect it; besides, the way of recalling Ambassadors on a Complaint seem'd here to be of dangerous Consequence. For which Reason, in
my

my Discourse at my Audience, your Majesty will perceive I touch'd that Matter very lightly.

The next Day after my Conference with Monsieur de Wit, which was the 16th, I had my Audience of the States-General; your Majesty will see by the Memorial hereto annex'd, being the Speech I made to 'em, whether I have answer'd your Intentions. The President for the Week, Monsieur de Ghent, reply'd in very civil Terms, thanking your Majesty in the Name of the States for the Honour you did them, to concern your self in their Interests, and assur'd me they would come to such a Resolution on the Affairs I had discours'd of, as shou'd be to your Majesty's Satisfaction.

I thought proper rather to settle the Mediation, than propose an Arbitrage, and believe the best time for that will be when the King of England has comply'd with the good Offices Monsieur de Cominges shall do with him, and that the Ambassador Van Goch ought to make the Proposal with Offers of consenting to it. We must wait to see the Dispositions of the Course of the Negotiation, which is now but beginning; for I'm satisfy'd, *Downing*, who would be Master of it, will interrupt it, and I must thereon observe to your Majesty, that whether the Matter be treated of here by way of Arbitrage or Mediation; if that Minister is concern'd in it, I cannot settle with him any certain Measures for the Ceremonial, on the score of his Pretensions; he'll demand, in the Conferences to be held in my House, an Elbow-Chair, and Honours at coming and going, which I cannot give without injuring my Dignity; Your Majesty will therefore be pleas'd to consider whether it would not be better to treat elsewhere, for he's of such a Humour, so proud and incompatible, that if he is not contented, he'll embroil Matters, rather than accommodate them.

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Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: July 17, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, has Orders to represent to your Lordships, that the King his Master having by his Dispatches, and those of his Ambassador with the King of England, been fully inform'd of the several Pretensions of that Crown against the *India Companies* of this State, thought a long time 'twas a Difference which might be look'd upon as an Affair between private Man and private Man, and ended amicably, without engaging either State in it; that your Lordships having lately sent an Ambassador to England, to offer reasonable Satisfaction; a good Success of his Negotiation was to be expected, to prevent all Misunderstandings between the two Nations, and therefore his Majesty's Intervention was no ways necessary; but having lately understood that the King of England, for the Interest of his Subjects, intends to take on him the getting Satisfaction for the Wrongs they pretend to have receiv'd from the said Companies, and is arming for that purpose, and that your Lordships also thinking your selves engag'd to protect the said Companies as your natural Subjects, whose Conduct seem'd to you to be just, prepar'd also for the Defence; his Majesty could no longer keep Silence on so important an Occasion, nor dissemble his Sentiments in an Affair wherein the Interest of two Allies, who are so dear to him, is equally concern'd. 'Tis for this Reason, that at the same time he's endeavouring by the Instances of his Ambassador with the King of England to bring him to a milder Temper, and incline him to a Peace, he has commanded the said

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‘ Ambassador Extraordinary to represent to your
 ‘ Lordships, of what Importance it is to your State to
 ‘ do the same, how much you ought in Prudence to
 ‘ avoid a War, the Events of which, tho’ the Party
 ‘ is ever so powerful, are generally at the disposal of
 ‘ Fortune; how much the Duration of a good Peace
 ‘ is preferable to the Advantages that one might pro-
 ‘ bably expect from taking up Arms; and in fine, how
 ‘ much your Trade, on which this State seems princi-
 ‘ pally to depend, may suffer in all Parts of the World
 ‘ by a War with *England*. For these Reasons his
 ‘ Majesty, out of *pure and sincere Friendship* for this
 ‘ State, exhorts your Lordships to forward a good A-
 ‘ greement by your Readiness to a Compliance on
 ‘ your Part; and on the other Monsieur *de Cominges* is
 ‘ charg’d to do the same good Offices with the King
 ‘ of *England*, with whom his Majesty promises him-
 ‘ self his Recommendation will not be useless; and his
 ‘ Majesty desires so passionately to see the Mischiefs,
 ‘ which commonly arise from so bloody a War as that
 ‘ which is kindling between two powerful Nati-
 ‘ ons, timely prevented, that if your Lordships
 ‘ thinks his Mediation may be useful to you, and the
 ‘ King of *England* is of the same Opinion, with re-
 ‘ ference to himself, he offers it heartily, without *any*
 ‘ other *View or Interests* than the Advantage and reci-
 ‘ procal Satisfaction of both Parties, which if ’tis ac-
 ‘ cepted, he will propose to himself as the only Object
 ‘ of his Conduct in the whole Course of this Negotia-
 ‘ tion. This is what his Majesty thinks fit to answer
 ‘ to two Memorials deliver’d to his Secretary of State,
 ‘ by the Lord Ambassador *Bersali*, on the Affairs of
 ‘ *England*.

‘ As to a third, in which the said Ambassador de-
 ‘ mands his Majestys Declaration address’d to all the
 ‘ Parliaments of the Kingdom, for the Verification of
 ‘ the Conditions and Articles of the Treaty, the said
 ‘ Ambassador Extraordinary has Orders to Answer
 ‘ your Lordships, that the Matters contain’d in the
 said

• said Treaty are now under Examination, to distinguish those that may be submitted to the Authority of the said Parliaments from the rest, and as soon as the Distinction is made his Majesty will have the said Declaration expediated and verify'd to your Lordships Satisfaction.

• As to a fourth Memorial presented by the Ambassador *Boreel*, wherein he complains of the taking of a Dutch Ship call'd the *Crown*, and demands Restitution; the said Ambassador Extraordinary has Orders to assure your Lordships, that if in the Proceedings now against her at *Toulon*, it appears that the said Ship had no Contraband Goods aboard, as 'tis pretended, there will be no difficulty, nor delay, in its Restitution.

• He adds, That his Majesty thinks your Lordships so well satisfy'd of his Affection, that he doubts not you will have as much Occasion to complain of some seditious Advices spread about the Provinces to his Prejudice, as he has himself reason to complain of his Conduct who publish'd them. Given at the *Hague*, July 17, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
July 18, 1664.

THE Advices I have receiv'd from *England* contain, that the Heats of Mens Minds at the first Obstacles are now somewhat quench'd, so that unless *Downing*, who at his Return to the *Hague* will have the whole Management of the Negotiation, either out of Caprice or private Interest carries the King his Master farther than he intends, 'tis likely that Affair will be accommodated; for, I observe, both Parties are willing to avoid all Acts of Hostility. In the mean time, I highly approve of the Reasons for which you write me,

me, in your Dispatch of the 10th, you would say nothing to the *Sieur de Wit* of the Information I gave you concerning their Minister at *Madrid*.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 July 24, 1664.

THE Lords the States have not yet let me know their Resolution with respect to the Offers I made 'em of your Majesty's Mediation ; however I'm told by my Friends, *Guelderland* and *Holland* have accepted of it, and the other Deputies have given their Provinces advice of it ; this is a Form observ'd in Affairs of such Consequence as this. In eight Days I shall have a positive Answer, which in appearance will be conformable to the Resolution of the two former Provinces.

Nevertheless, the warlike Preparations are carry'd on with more Vigour, since News is come hither, that the *English* have taken three Ships richly laden from *Guiney*, belonging to the *West-India* Company, and endeavour'd to surprize the *Castle del Mina*. *Downing* is expected here this Week, and accordingly as he declares himself, a Judgment may be made, if Matters on the Part of the *English* tend to an Accommodation.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
 July 31, 1664.

THE Lords the States have not yet made me any answer to my Offers of your Majesty's Mediation, with Reference to their Differences with *England* ; however I'm inform'd the Deputies have receiv'd Orders from their Provinces to accept of it, *Zealand* excepted, whose Deputies still wait for it. I do not
 U think

think 'tis for your Majesty's Service to shew any Impatience about it, perhaps they are willing to see how the King of *England* will answer, and so govern themselves accordingly. *Downing* return'd four Days ago; he has not yet visited any one, and People are here in Expectation to know his Orders. The Lords the States cannot promise themselves any thing that looks like an Accommodation, which seems to be reserv'd for your Majesty's Mediation, and prepare more than ever for War, the *English* having taking four Ships in *Gaiety*, belonging to the *West-India* Company, which is look'd upon as the first Aggression, and 'tis expected 'twill be follow'd by new Acts of Hostility: They stay for the Arrival of their Main Fleet from *India*, before they'll put to Sea to make Returns, or use greater Instances with your Majesty for the Succours they think they have a Right to demand of you by Virtue of the late Treaty. I hope your Majesty has already observ'd, this War has hitherto no other Ground but the Interest of private Men, which has not yet drawn after it that of the two States, and that the Actions which have past are between Company and Company, which do not carry in themselves any Declaration of War to bring on a Rupture between the two Nations, and consequently do not hitherto engage your Majesty for the Conditions of the Treaty you have made with the *United-Provinces*, and for this Reason I believe *England* is careful not to give her Enterprizes any other name, but that of private Men, that your Majesty may not be concern'd in the Matter; and if you think 'tis for the Convenience of your Affairs to find out Reasons to dispence with passing beyond the Mediation, your Majesty will, much better than I, tell where to have them; and I make this Observation only out of Zeal for your Service, my Care being in all Things to obey your Orders.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
August 7, 1664.

SINCE the Account I gave your Majesty last Post of the Affairs of *England*, *Downing* has notify'd his Arrival to the Lords the States, visited the President for the Week, and deliver'd him a Letter from the King his Master, importing that his Intention is to keep a good Correspondence with this State, and only to procure for his Subjects, Satisfaction for the Damages they complain of, which his Minister is order'd to demand of them. The States sent an Agent to Compliment him, after which Monsieur *de Wit* visited him; the Visit past in general Terms, without coming to any Agreement about their Differences, or the manner of Treating of an Accommodation.

The 5th of this Month he presented a Memorial, wherein, to the old Pretensions, he adds a new Complaint against the *East-India* Company of this State, for that the *English* have by their Order been driven out of the Trade they had got leave of the King of the *Indies* to carry on at *Parca*, under Colour that 'tis a Dependency of *Conchin*, of which this Company pretends to be Sovereign. The 6th he presented another, in which he offer'd to exchange with the Lords the States, the Memorials of Reciprocal Demands and Satisfactions pretended to by both Nations, and yesterday the States Agent offer'd him the Memorial of this. This done on both sides, the Negotiation will be begun, and I'm of Opinion 'twill meet with many delays; in the mean while Monsieur *Opdam* is order'd to Sea with thirty Ships.

I was surpriz'd yesterday to see Monsieur *Downing* conducted by my People into my Apartment, before I had any notice of his Intending to give me a Visit; he gave me to understand, that coming to see Monsieur *d'Arminvilliers*, who sometimes lyes at my House,

and having sent to demand Audience of him, he was not sorry he had met me, to tell me he had always been your Majesty's Servant; and flattering me on the Esteem I had acquir'd in *England* with the King his Master, and the Lord Chancellor, he would make me believe he was troubled 'twas not permitted him to visit me, by my refusing him the Honours that were due to him, which he had Orders to preserve; and then he enter'd on the Matter, telling me the Lords the States had distinguish'd him as Envoy-Extraordinary from Residents on all Occasions, that afterwards the *Spanish* Ambassador gave him the Hand at his House, and if he should abate of these Advantages with respect to me, contrary to his Orders, the Lords the States had agreed to retrench them, if the Difference they had made between him and Residents was not follow'd by the Ambassadors in their Behaviour to me. That he was glad he had this Opportunity of clearing this matter to me, and that the desire he had not to be depriv'd from the Honour he should receive by treating with me, made him think of all means of effecting it, and oblig'd him even to offer me to go to the *Vorhaus* with me, and thus avoid the Difficulties which might be met with in my Visit.

I answer'd him, I had nothing to say to the Orders he had receiv'd from the King his Master, but that his Pretension must be decided by the Usage and Practice in all Courts, where never Envoy-Extraordinary, any more than a Resident, had the right Hand, or the Precedency of an Ambassador: That I did the same in *England* with *Frinsendorf*, who, as well as he, call'd himself Envoy-Extraordinary of *Sweden*, and further I had Orders, to which I must conform, which would not suffer me to accept of any such Medium as he propos'd. After this he retir'd, and I commanded a Page to conduct him to Monsieur *d'Arminvilliers's* Chamber, without stirring from the Place where he found me.

I then inform'd my self, by some of the State, what Treatment he had receiv'd: I found he had, as Envoy-Extraordinary, been distinguish'd from Residents, as are all your Majesty's Envoys, and even those of Princes who do not wear a close Crown; but they did not agree, that the Lords the States had resolv'd to retrench him of the Honours granted him, if the Ambassadors did not make him the Distinction in theirs: As for the Examples of the *Spanish* Ambassador, 'tis true, and Don *Esteven de Gamarre* allows it to be so, but he retrench'd him of that Honour, when he understood I refus'd it him. Your Majesty will draw your Consequences from it, and see if this Visit of *Downing*, which I take to be done with Design, is not the beginning of a Negotiation, that I may have Instructions what Treatment I must give him, in case I'm oblig'd by the Mediation to treat with him about the present Affairs.

I have been told, there's a Treaty made in *Spain* with the *Guiney* Company of *England*, who by it oblige themselves to furnish the *Spaniards* with eight hundred Negroes yearly, at forty Pieces of Eight a Head, and to deliver them at *Jamaica* to the *Spaniards*, who from thence are to distribute them to the Neighbouring Colonies, in consideration of which the *English* are allow'd to Trade in some Parts of the *Indies*.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
August 8, 1664.

I Had already observ'd, as well as you, that the Difference about which I offer my Mediation, being for the Interest of private Persons only, which has not yet drawn after it that of the two States, nor consequently come to a Rupture between the two Nations, I am not hitherto engag'd for the Conditions of the Treaty I have made with the States, and 'tis very likely 'tis for this Reason *England* is careful to cover her

Enterprises with the Name of private Men, to avoid my being concern'd in the matter otherwise than as a Mediator ; on which account the *Hollanders* will be very much in the wrong, if what I have seen in Advices from *Holland* be true, that they are very ill satisfy'd with the Offer of my Mediation, pretending I ought to have made 'em another of a different Nature.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count D'Estrades : August 8, 1664.

WE have been so extraordinarily busy'd by the coming of my Lord the Legate, that I have thro' necessity been hinder'd from answering your Dispatches punctually, during his Abode here. He departed Yesterday, loaden, as he protested himself, with the Favours he had every way receiv'd from his Majesty ; Monsieur went to meet him a quarter of a League at his Arrival, which was what he desir'd most of any thing, and is that which of all the Honours that were paid, he had the most reason to desire. His Majesty agreed, that after having seen him contrary to the Custom, he should go and make his publick Entry at *Paris*, where he should be accompany'd under a Canopy by Monseigneur the Prince, and Monseigneur the Duke, and his Majesty by his Authority surmount-ed the Difficulties which arose concerning the Habits of our Bishops, and the Treatment the said Legate should give the Parliament and the other Societies. I don't tell you the Particulars, because with Respect to you they are meer Trifles, tho' they are the greatest Affairs of the Court of *Rome*. Besides that, tho' there is some Excess on our part, it cannot be injurious, because we may cover all with the Pretext of Piety. His Majesty has further consented that the Pope may again put a Garrison into *Avignon*, tho' by a secret Article of the Treaty of *Pisa* that Point was

was left to the entire Disposal of his Majesty. He has also granted his Eminence, Cardinal *Imperioli's* Pardon, and that Monsieur *Roberty*, with whole Conduct in the late Troubles his Majesty had no Reason to be satisfy'd; may notwithstanding remain Nuncio in Ordinary in *France*, after having done the Function of Extraordinary Nuncio for the Courts of my Lord the *Dauphin*; and to conclude, when his Eminence departed, his Majesty sent a Present to him of a Diamond Cross worth 50000 Crowns; Don *Sigismund*, the Pope's Nephew, and one *Piccolomini*, a Cousin of the Pope's, had two Cases given them, with his Majesty's Picture enrich'd with Diamonds, and all the rest of the most considerable of his Train had fine Presents, with which they seem'd to be so very well pleas'd, that they confess themselves there were no true Riches and Magnificence but in this Kingdom, nor any King great in all things but ours.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estades: August 15, 1664.

LAST Saturday my Lord the Legate made his Publick Entry into *Paris*, an Account of which you will have seen in the *Gazettes*; he has by the King's Permission given the Jubilee of the Month of *March* last to the whole Kingdom. He stay'd at *Paris* but three Days after his Entry, which he spent in visiting Madam the Dutches Dowager of *Orleans*, Monseigneur the Prince, Monseigneur the Duke, and some Princesses. He departed last *Thursday* for *Lyons* by way of *Troyes* and *Dijon*, intending to be there in thirteen Days; the King's Household accompany'd him to *Troyes*, and the Duke of *Montausier* is to attend him to *Lyons*, where he is to see him Embark on the *Rhone*, to be in two Days at *Avignon*, of which Place he sent

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beforehand to take Possession in the Name of the Pope and the Holy See, pursuant to the Permission the King had granted at *Fountainbleau*, revoking the Decrees of the Parliament of *Provence*, by which 'twas re-annex'd to the Crown.

*From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
September 18, 1664.*

I Had time to visit the Deputies of the Cities before the opening of the Assembly, and that was enough to recover them out of the Alarm they were in, on certain Reports which had been spread about the Provinces in my Absence. The greatest part of the People here, were perswaded your Majesty had only made use of your Mediation here and in *England* by way of Form, and in appearance, to answer the Obligation of the Treaty of Alliance; that 'twas your true Interest to foment the War kindling between *England* and the States, against the approaching Conjunction of the King of *Spain's* Death, that you may meet with the less Opposition to make good the Queen's Right to the Succession of the *Low-Countries*; wherefore the *United-Provinces* were not to expect any Assistance from your Majesty with Respect to the present Differences; that besides, they were inform'd a Treaty of Commerce was carrying on in *France* with *England*, which could not but be too prejudicial to this State; that the Conditions were not truly known, but they had very good Grounds to be alarm'd at it.

I told them, I had too good an Opinion of them to think they were capable of being impos'd on by Reports without any Foundation; which besides I knew were spread by the ancient Enemies of their Peace, the Factions of *Spain* and *England*, who would oblige them to subscribe to whatever Terms the King of *England* shou'd

shou'd require them to submit to by a Treaty, and by that means deprive them of all the Hopes they might lawfully build on *France*. That hitherto your Majesty had done every thing which true Friendship oblig'd you to, and I shou'd do them a very ill Office if I shou'd let you know they were dissatisfy'd, or had conceiv'd the least distrust of your Sincerity.

That as to the Treaty with *England*, they had talk'd to me of it so confusedly, and had so little Certainty in their Allegations, I cou'd assure them their Fears were ill grounded, and created by the Artifices of such as envy'd them; that your Majesty endeavour'd to renew the Alliance with that Crown, as he had done with them; that they may remember when you were offer'd to enter into that they made in 62, you declar'd you would have a Separate one, which is now treating, but without any Prejudice to their Interest in Trade.

This Discourse encourag'd them a little, but does not hinder their desiring of your Majesty something more than you have already done with the King of *England*. I have even found out by my Conference with them, that Monsieur *de Wit* is to make me the Proposal, so that seeing him the 17th, he talk'd to me as they had done, and told me these Reports, not as things he believ'd, but as spread to poison the Peoples Minds, and the most sensible may not be proof against them. He indeed condemn'd them entirely, as being contrary to the sincere and hearty Friendship they had met with from your Majesty in your offer'd Mediation; but that 'twere to be wish'd, to convince all the World of it, that your Majesty would be pleas'd to let the King of *England* know, that being inform'd by the Lords the States, or by my Letters, of Complaint of the late Enterprizes in *Guiney*, the taking the Forts of *Gabourr* and *Toracy*, and some Ships, and that his *Britannick* Majesty declaring that he knows nothing of it, and inclines to Peace, your Majesty thinks the readiest way to secure it, will be to restore the said Forts

Forts and Ships, supposing them to be taken, and that you would be pleas'd to use Instances to that Purpose; that the Lords the States are so well satisfy'd their Interests are dear to you, and that by your natural Sentiments you will be for preserving them, that they are ready to refer entirely to your Judgment, or your Parliament of *Paris*, or such Commissioners as you shall appoint; the difficulty that is in the Explanation of the Words *litum inceptam prosequi*, contain'd in the 15th Article of their Treaty with *England*, wherein is the whole knot of the principal Contest that they can't avoid the War with which they are threatned but by this means; and that in case your Majesty's Intercession, supported by the great Reason that might be brought to maintain it, does not produce the Effect in the King of *England*, which may reasonably be desir'd, they shall at least justify to all Christendom, that they do not make War out of Wantonness, and shall think of defending themselves, without being blam'd by any one, by all the means God has put into their Hands: To this Proposal of Monsieur *de Wit*, I made Answer; that already, by Monsieur *de Cominge's* Offices, and the King of *England's* Answer, your Majesty had Reason to believe that he was engag'd to come to a War for the Interest of his People, and the strong desire they seem'd to have for it by the Instances they had us'd with the Parliament; that after that, I thought 'twould be a hard matter for him to dispencc with it, and thus your Majesty would be expos'd, if you were engag'd to make new Instances; especially considering the King of *England* had been at the Expence of Preparations; that nevertheless, knowing your Sentiments inclin'd to the Welfare of this State, I would not omit writing to you. But if the King of *England* had a mind to use Evasions, as he had already done, he would find out a thousand ways for it, without giving your Majesty any reasonable Grounds of Complaint. He then resum'd the same Discourse which he had in the Conference with the Sieut *Batailler* about the Project, and

I took him up short as to that Point, in letting him know 'twas an ill-tim'd Proposal, and that 'twould be soon enough to regulate the Conditions when the Succession fell to the Queen; that I had fully inform'd him of the Reasons your Majesty had so to do; however, I could assure him, you would not refuse any reasonable Precautions the Lords the States should desire of you for the Security of their Frontiers, and other Advantages relating to the strengthening of their State.

Your Majesty is now to consider, whether 'tis for your Interest to see this People involv'd in Troubles, and would have them occupy'd by such a War as that of *England*, when you have Pretensions to dispute in their Neighbourhood. In such Case you may find out means to let Affairs take their Course, and yet seem to do what the Engagements of the late Treaties require; and to that end, I'm of Opinion, to prevent their Suspicions increasing, that your Majesty may without danger grant some of their Demands, there being no likelihood it will produce any thing, nor interrupt the Course of a forc'd War, form'd rather by Interest and Animosity than Justice.

I send your Majesty the general Memorials of the reciprocal Demands of the two Nations; the King of *England's* Answer to that of the Ambassador *Van Goch*, and a Memorial presented by *Downing* to the Lords the States. The ill *French* and Nonsense of which will certainly divert whoever give themselves the Trouble to read it.

Among other Preparation of the States for this War, there's one very remarkable, the levying 8000 Seamen, who are to serve as Soldiers in case of Necessity in Towns, and aboard Ships, which will make a Body to supply the place of the *English*, whom they must send Home in case of an open Rupture.

From

From the Count D'Eltrades to the King :
September 25, 1664.

SIX Days ago the Lords the States resolv'd, as to the Affairs of *England*, that Monsieur *Downing* should be desir'd to produce the Proofs of the Complaints made by the King of *England* against the *Dutch* General in *Guiney*, that if that General was found to have carry'd himself ill towards the *English*, the States might get Satisfaction made as it appear'd to be lawfully to be due; to which *Downing* reply'd, that he had not yet receiv'd Proofs, but expected to receive them.

There has been nothing yet resolv'd on by the Commissioners appointed last Week for these Affairs; but 'tis probable they will come to some Resolution at the next Meeting of the States. In the mean time, *Downing* continues to say his Master cannot be satisfy'd with what the States have, or may alledge, as to the Construction of the Words *litem inceptam prosequi*, with respect to the difference about the two Ships, the *Good Hope* and the *Bonaventure*, and will not suffer a third Person to be Judge of their Signification.

The Letters from *England* bring Advice, that the King told the Ambassador *Van Goch*, he was not satisfy'd with the States Proceedings; that he would send a good number of Ships to the Coasts of *Guiney*, and six Months after, they might depend upon it, he would bring the War into *Europe*; and the Duke gives out he will next Year command the Fleet in Person, and defend the Rights of his Nation.

The Fleet of this State is order'd to the Coast of *Guiney*; 'tis now under Debate, whether those that are on these Coasts shall keep to Sea, or return to their Ports, because they'll want Provisions by the end of this Month. Yet 'tis uncertain whether the Ships of this State will act as Succours given the Company. In
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the mean time the Preparations are continu'd, and the 8000 Seamen are to be incorporated into the 80 Companies of Infantry of this Nation, and three Men out of every Company of the other Bodies are to serve in this Expedition.

There's News come here that the *English* have taken a Place in *America*, call'd *Long Island*.

While the States are thus occupy'd, there's no likelihood of their hearkening to *Gamarre's* Proposals; and I took up Monsieur *de Wit* so short upon that Matter, when he would have enter'd upon it, that I'm sure he'll not make any further Attempts that way, and your Majesty need be in no Pain about it.

Hannibal Lester, very far from taking hold of his Wife's living here, for a Pretext of a Journey to inquire more narrowly into the Causes of the Difference between *England* and this State, does not talk of coming; nay, his Wife is to go to him in eight or ten Days, and Monsieur *de Wit's* giving the *Sieur Batailler* to understand the contrary, was only to let him have the better Opinion of the Condition of the States Affairs.

The Province of *Zealand* has, by its good Order, hitherto preserv'd its self from the Plague; it has now some Men of War at the Entrance of the *Maas*, to keep the Ships of other Provinces from entering into their Ports. But I think your Majesty's Caution, in sending Monsieur *Nacquart*, was necessary to prevent the Frauds which might have been practis'd by the Merchants, who by an Understanding among themselves, might extend to the other Provinces, the Favour your Majesty designs for *Zealand* only.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 2, 1664.

THE Letter I receiv'd from your Majesty has cur'd Monsieur *de Wit* of his Fears concerning the Treaty with *England*, and given him means to remove those of some of the Chief of the States, who had a Diffidence of it. Your Majesty having declar'd your Pleasure therein very obligingly, I thought it proper to communicate it to him, to give him a new Proof of Confidence, and engage his more and more. He was extremely affected with the Manner of your Majesty's doing your good Offices with the King of *England*, on Account of the Differences of *Guiney*, and thinks there's Ground to hope for Success; as well in Consideration of your Majesty's Mediation, as because the King of *England* can give no other Reason for the insulting the Company's Ships, and the Forts of *Cape Verd*, &c. than Wrongs and Damages his Subjects pretend to have receiv'd in those Parts, and 'till they be allow'd and satisfy'd no Restitution can be made: In which Case your Majesty engaging to procure Satisfaction from the States for the said Wrongs when prov'd, and giving your Royal Word for it, the said King cannot in Justice deny Restitution; and your Majesty may, for the good Disposition the States are in to give him Satisfaction, make use of the Offers they made by their Resolutions of the 18th and 25th of *September*, to pay the Damages five *English* Ships sustain'd, by being molested in their Trade in *India*; as you will see in the Memoirs communicated to me by Monsieur *de Wit*, and which I send your Majesty.

This is what he at present desires of your Majesty, and I am enjoin'd to let you know it. You will see better than any body, if these Instances are agreeable
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to your Interests; and cannot fail of observing, that by this first Compliance of the States, they seem insensibly to consent to what the *English* aim'd at by this Quarrel, and to submit to get off it by Money, which is what *Downing* still propos'd.

Their Fleet for *Guiney* will sail with the first Opportunity, and be convoy'd by Monsieur *Obdam* as far as the Coasts of *Spain*. To the old State of the Navy, they have added twenty new Ships they have order'd to be built, the least of which will have sixty Guns, and be ready in four Months time, a Fund being settled for it, and the raising of the two hundredth Penny, as was done in the time of the War with *Spain*, being resolv'd on.

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: August 3, 1664.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, by our Readiness to consent, that the Province of *Zealand*, which is free from the Contagious Distemper with which your other Provinces are afflicted, should continue its Trade with our Subjects in *France*, and that all Ships from thence shall be receiv'd in our Ports and Havens, according to the Conditions agreed to on the Spot with the *Sieur Nacquart*, 'tis easie for you to perceive we sincerely Desire to give you on all Occasions Proofs of our good Will, and should be very glad if we could grant the same Liberty to your other Provinces; but the Care we are oblig'd to take of the Preservation of our Subjects, not suffering us to alter any thing, as to the Precautions our Courts of Parliament have by our Order thought fit to take to preserve them from this Affliction, we were desirous
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to acquaint you by this Letter, that 'tis with a great deal of Trouble we Exercise this Rigour, and continually pray God that he will be pleas'd to give us the Means to put an End to it, by restoring Health to your Provinces: Praying also that he will have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at our Castle of Vincennes the third Day of October, 1664.

Your good Friend, Ally and Confederate,

De Lionne.

LOUIS.

The Supercription was,

*To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates,
the Lords the States-General of the United-Pro-
vinces of the Low-Countries.*

*From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
October 9, 1664.*

I Have given Monsieur *de Wit* such Satisfaction, with Respect to your Majesty's good Intentions, on account of the Differences with *England*, by shewing him eight Days ago in what an obliging Manner your Majesty wrote of it in your Letter of the 26th past, that 'twas not necessary for me to add any new Arguments to convince him further of it: Nevertheless, in Obedience to your Majesty's Orders by your last Dispatch, I have assur'd him, Monsieur *de Caminges* is expressly commanded to do his utmost with the King of *England* to get the Forts in *Guiney*, and the Ships belonging to the *East-India* Company, restor'd: So that in his Report to the States, he was so well heard, that he had Orders to return me Thanks, and to declare
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to me, they hop'd their Differences would by this way be amicably terminated; nay, *Downing* has within this few Days been milder in his Memorials, and demands to enter upon the Business with the Commissioners, on the Offers made of making good the Damages sustain'd by the five Ships, which were molested in their Trade in the *Indies* by the *Dutch*. But at the same time that the States-General highly commended your Majesty's generous and obliging Proceedings in this matter, the States of *Holland* gave me to understand by the said Monsieur *de Wit*, the Prejudice it is to their Province to be refus'd the Continuance of their Trade to *France*, thro' the Precaution of the Quarantine; and that this Prohibition is a Severity they do not meet with in *Spain*, *Italy*, *England*, or any other Nation, and your Majesty giving entire Liberty to *Zealand*, or at least with very little Restraint, some would infer 'tis with a Design to mortifie *Holland* by it, to raise Jealousie in the other Provinces; and by favouring *Zealand* to gain that Province, and create a Division in the rest; nay, they go so far, as to maintain *Zealand* could not separate from the generality in the Demand they made of this Favour: And as Interest is the most sensible part of these People, they seem'd very earnest that it should not be injur'd by a Prohibition, which they think very rigorous; and I am desir'd to write their Sense of it thus to your Majesty. But first I let them know, that your Majesty's Conduct in this Affair was only out of the Goodness which makes you watchful of the Preservation of your People; and keep them from the Affliction which the other Provinces lye under. That if *Zealand* had been tainted, it would have been compriz'd in it as well as the rest, and that your Majesty was no more rigorous to them, than to *Toulon* with Respect to the rest of the Kingdom, since that City was afflicted with that Distemper, by so necessary a Precaution; and that your sincere and obliging Proceedings with respect to the whole State, and your Majesty's Affection for their

Interests, ought to be a powerful Reason to confirm them against the ill Explanations that some would give to your Actions. Your Majesty is a better Judge than I of the strength of these Reasons, and will see if there's any Inconveniency in granting their Demands; all I can say to it is, that the Distemper diminishes at *Amsterdam*, where but seven hundred dy'd last Week; that in all the other Cities, even the *Hague*, the Burials decrease considerably, and 'tis hop'd in two Months 'twill generally cease.

The Fleet design'd for *Guiney* waits only for a fair Wind, and *Monfieur Obdam* is still order'd to convoy it as far as the Coasts of *Spain*. The States of *Holland*, who were to separate this Week, have continu'd their Session to the end of the next; some Cities of this Province oppose the raising the two hundredth Penny, which had been resolv'd upon.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
October 10, 1664.

I Receiv'd your Letter of the 2d of this Month; I have not yet any Account of what has pass at *London*, on the *Sieur de Cominges's* executing the Orders I gave him, to speak with the King of *England* about the Restitution of *Cape Verde*, and the *Dutch-Ships* taken by his Subjects on the Coast of *Guiney*. I shall now, in Conformity to your last Letter, on occasion of the new Officers of the States to make good the Damages of the five *English* Ships sustain'd, by being molested in their Trade in the *Indies*, give new Orders to the *Sieur de Cominges* to speak to him thereon; and you may assure the *Sieur de Wit*, that I am very glad to see things are in so fair a way to an Accommodation.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 16, 1664.

THE last Letters I receiv'd from your Majesty of the 10th of this Month, gave me occasion to see Monsieur de Wit, to tell him your Majesty will let no Opportunity slip to bring the King of *England* to an Accommodation; for which end, you had sent Orders to Monsieur de Comenges to set forth the Justice and Honour of the Lords the States Proceedings in the Offers they have made, to pay the Damages sustain'd by the five *English* Ships, by being molested in their Trade in the *Indies*; and as I accompany'd these officious Demonstrations of your Majesty's Affection, with the Assurances you order'd me to give the Sieur de Wit of your rejoicing to see things in so fair a way to an Accommodation, so he let me know the Lords the States thought themselves infinitely oblig'd to your Majesty for so many Proofs of your Royal Goodness: But they were sorry to observe by the King of *England*'s Conduct, they had produc'd no Effect in his Mind, which gave them any hopes that their Differences would end by a Peace. That they had Advice the *English* had now taken the Port of *Cape Corse* in *Guiney*, and continu'd their Hostilities on all that Coast; that when their Ambassador complain'd to the King of the taking of *Cape Verde*, he answer'd as if he had no share in that Action, and that 'twas committed only by the *English* Company, tho' his Men of War sail'd thither bearing his Flag. That he had taken the States Preparations for War ill, and gave them to understand that finding himself oblig'd by it to take Arms, he should look upon them as the Aggressors, and require Satisfaction for the Damages he should sustain by the Expence he was put to. So that his whole Proceeding shew'd his Intention was to create a War

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for the Differences of private Men, which ought naturally to be ended by regular Justice. That they offer'd again to submit the Explanation of the Words *litem inceptam prosecui*, to the Judgment of some Parliament of *France*, or the Chamber of *Spires*, or that of any disinterested Persons. That after all these generous Advances of the Lords the States towards an Accommodation, and your Majesty's good Offices to promote that Design, if they were refus'd, the Justice of their Proceedings would appear to all Christendom, and they should expect your Majesty, according to the Engagement of the late Treaties, and the Guaranty agreed on, would enter into this War with them.

I answer'd, they should wait to see what Effect the *Sieur de Cominges* new Instances would have, before they should suppose the King of *England* would come to a formal Rupture with them; that your Majesty would never be wanting in any thing of the Obligation of his Treaties with any of his Allies, and especially the Lords the States, who were most dear to him, but 'twas not time yet to demand the Effect of the Guaranty: That he might remember the Treaty declar'd that Guaranty to be confin'd to Rights contested in *Europe*. That hitherto all the Differences that appear'd between them and *England*, regarded only some Depradations and Troubles in Trade done out of *Europe*, in which they could not convince the *English* of their having committed any Act of Hostility, by Vertue of which they were entitul'd to demand the Effect of the said Guaranty. Thus I made *Monsieur de Wit* agree with me, on the force, both of the Conditions of this Guaranty, and the time when the Lords the States might demand it; and I perceive all their Aim is to have your Majesty arbitrate their Differences, and to engage you so to negotiate Matters with the King of *England*, that he may agree to it himself. Nay, I believe, that not being willing to enter into the War, they only want a fair Opportunity to conclude

clude a Peace, and would give what can be demanded of them, provided they can do it with saving their Honour and Reputation, and consent to submit to it if your Majesty condemn'd them to do so. This would certainly be a glorious Opportunity for your Majesty to shew your self, and give Peace to two mighty Neighbours, if you found the King of *England* alike dispos'd to it.

The Fleet has taken more Provisions aboard at the *Goree*, and still waits only for a fair Wind to sail to *Guiney*, being to take their Course thro' the *Channel*. They are building twenty Men of War, and casting Guns for them.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
October 17, 1664.

HE writes me thereon, that he has told the King there's now no room to doubt of the said Ships being taken, and consequently he may now declare himself, if he has sincerely any Inclination to restore them, as he gave the *Dutch* Ambassador hopes of; that such a Declaration had always appear'd to me as a good and sure way to an Accommodation, the other Differences consisting only in making Satisfaction for some Losses by the taking of Ships on both Sides, and God seem'd to furnish the Parties, and those who desir'd Peace only, with the Means to enter into a real and sincere Negociation, and put an end to the Preparations made on both Sides, which were so considerable that every thing was to be fear'd. He added, that having Orders from me to take hold of all Opportunities that offer'd for an Accommodation to be embrac'd; he must tell him, I was still in the same Mind as to the Offers of my Mediation, which had not been lately mention'd, only because of the Reception of 'em

at first, as if they had been made with other Views than those of a Peace.

The King of *England* reply'd, he would never scruple to refer his, and the Nation's Interests, to my Arbitrement; and that if he had not formally accepted of my Mediation, 'twas that indeed he did not think they should come to a Rupture; but that now he understood from good Hands, that the *Dutch* Ambassador was to declare to him the *Guissey* Fleet was ready to sail thro' the *Channel*, under Convoy of the *Sieur d'Obdam*, he could not without prejudicing his Dignity and Honour, avoid making use of the means God had put into his Hands to hinder the Progress of their unjust Designs; that he was satisfy'd I should not have any thing to say against it, if I would judge of another's Sentiments by my own. As to the Proposal to restore the Forts and Ships, he had not declar'd himself otherwise; we shall see whether he will open himself further at the second Solicitation the *Sieur de Comminges* has Orders to make, as I observ'd to you in my last Dispatch.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 28, 1664.

BY the three last Letters contain'd in your Majesty's Dispatch of the 17th of this Month, I receiv'd what Answer the King of *England* made to Monsieur de Comminges Instances; and having inform'd Monsieur de Wit, I confirm'd him in his Opinion that you let no Opportunity slip to give the Lords the States Proofs of your Friendship, and desires like a good Allie to prevent the War with which they are threatn'd; but he's at the same time satisfy'd, both by this Answer, and the Ambassador *Van Goch's* Advices from *England*, that that King is very far from any Thoughts of an Accom-

Accommodation; and tho' they make Preparations for the worst Events that may happen on a Rupture, yet they still desire your Majesty not to give over your good Offices, hoping that at last the Ministers of *England*, prest by your Majesty's Offers to procure a just Satisfaction for all the Losses which are the Cause of the present Differences, will not be able to avoid accepting them; and as your Majesty will see by my last Dispatch, that the Lords the States so passionately desire to be freed from this War, as to be willing to comply with many things disputable by your Majesty's Mediation; so now I perceive, provided the Forts and Ships taken in *Guiney* be restor'd to them, they will entirely submit to your Majesty's Judgment in all the other Pretensions, even to the Damages they have a Right to pretend to, for the spoiling the said Forts, the Goods taken, the Artillery and other Losses sustain'd on this Occasion; so that if the Restitution of the said Forts be certain, the *English* will come off advantageously in their Demands of Money for the Losses they pretend to have sustain'd, and these Conditions will be comply'd with here out of Deference to your Majesty's Mediation, and Assurances of it would be given by the States, if they knew *England* would accept of it. This is what I have to represent from a long Conference with the *Sieur de Wit*; on which your Majesty will make your judicious Reflections. The *Guiney* Fleet and Ships are about to set sail, the Wind being fair; they will be convoy'd to the Coasts of *Spain* by that commanded by Monsieur *Obdam*, consisting of twenty seven Men of War, and are to go thro' the *Channel*.

'Tis reported here, that the Emperor's Ministers have oblig'd the Emperor to precipitate a Peace with the *Turk*, to conclude his Marriage with the *Infanta*, without the Cession of the *Low Countries*, and that the Archduke of *Inspruck* is to command here. A particular Friend of mine, one of the States, gave me Notice that the Elector of *Brandenburg* had enter'd into

a very strict Alliance with the Emperor, into which were also enter'd the whole House of *Orange*, and those of that Party; to which purpose, there's a Marriage on foot between the young Princess and the Archduke; that the Conditions about Religion are settled, pursuant to which, she is to have a Minister under the Name of a *Valet de Chambre*, and two Women of her own Religion; the Exercise of which is to be permitted in her Apartment. On this Plan *Friget* and *Richard* go about the Cities, and to the Taverns, to insinuate the Greatness of the House of *Austria* into Mens Minds; giving out that the Emperor will by this Peace have an Army of 50000 Men at his Disposal, without any dependance on the Princes of *Germany*; They endeavour to raise Fear in the People of these Provinces of your Majesty's Designs, on account of the Neighbourhood of the *Netherlands*, and heighten the Means the Emperor has to protect them against you, which they do to bring them off of their Alliance with your Majesty, and into Engagements with the Empire for their particular Preservation. 'Tis the way in this Country more than any, where Resolutions are a long while taking, to act by Insinuations, to sow and spread Reports to affect Peoples Minds before they are mov'd, and afterwards to take hold of Opportunities produc'd by time to effect what is propos'd. These Designs tending directly to destroy the present Government, and consequently all Monsieur de *Wu's* Authority, I took occasion in my last Conference to touch upon them in general Terms, and take Notice of the Practices of these two Ministers of the House of *Austria*, as also of the Information I had receiv'd of their being contriving some things for which I was in Pain; he answer'd, without opening himself also, that their Contrivances would not succeed, he knowing how to disappoint them. I was not willing to press the Matter further, for fear he should find out the Secret which had been communicated to me by a Friend of his as well as mine.

mine. Your Majesty may otherwise be inform'd of the Conduct of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and will judge better than I can do how your Interests are concern'd; what seems to me of Importance, is to find out whether *England* is not in that same Engagement, in hopes of getting the Prince of *Orange* restor'd, which I shall endeavour to discover.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
October 24, 1664.

I Was very glad to hear by your last Dispatch of the 18th, that the *Sieur de Wit* had declar'd to you, the States-General thought themselves infinitely oblig'd by the Proofs I gave them of my Good Will, in the Orders I continually send the *Sieur de Cominges* to dispose the King of *England* to an Accommodation; and you may assure them, I shall never leave off acting with Zeal and Sincerity, tho' my Offers have not hitherto had the Effect I desir'd. On the contrary, the said *Sieur de Cominges* advises me, that a great Council has been holden, wherein, 'tis said, 'twas unanimously resolv'd that a War should be immediately and vigorously enter'd into with the *Dutch*, 'till they have given Satisfaction for the Losses and Damages the Nation has suffer'd, and that the Duke of *York* had on this Occasion offer'd his Service, which had been accepted. I have seen the Offers made by the States, to submit the Construction of the Words *littem inceptam prosequi*, to the Judgment of some Parliaments of *France*, or the Chamber of *Spire*. 'Tis doubtless a great step towards a Peace, and particularly join'd to the former, of making good the Damages sustain'd by the five *English* Ships in their Trade. But the Difficulty of the Affair consists not in that; and I believe the *English* are so loath to enter into a War, that an Accommodation

sion would easily be made on both Sides, for what relates to the taking of Ships and reciprocal Damages, either by referring it to Arbitrators, or by way of Negotiation between the Ministers of both States: But they declare they will not come to any Agreement on particular Points, unless all Differences be at the same time adjusted, and the principal Dispute is about the Possession of *Guiney*, concerning which neither Party is willing to comply; wherefore when you write me, that you believe you have found out that the States seek only for honourable Means to make Peace, and to give almost whatever is demanded of them, saving the Honour and Reputation of the State, and would consent to submit to it if I condemn'd them; 'tis necessary you tell me exactly, whether you think the State is in this Disposition as to what relates to the Possession of the said Coast of *Guiney*, and abandoning the Forts taken from them, as they are dispos'd to submit to my Judgment as to Restitutions and Satisfactions of Ships taken on both Sides, or Damages by Molestation in Trade; without which, I see, I cannot labour for an Accommodation with Success. The truth is, what gives me very little hopes of it is, that tho' the States should refer both Points to me, I don't think *England* will do the same on her Part for what concerns the said Coast, at least I have seen nothing hitherto that looks like any Inclination to it on that side. However, I was very well pleas'd to hear, that as long as the *English* committed no Act of Hostility in *Europe*, the States had no Right to demand any Effect of the Guaranty.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
October 30, 1664.

I Am confirm'd, by your Majesty's last Dispatch of the 24th of this Month, in my Opinion, that the true Reason of the War preparing between *England* and this State, was that Crown's being desirous to be Mistress of *Guiney*, for the Profit and Advantage the new Company erected in *England*, under the Protection of the Duke of *York*, will receive by it; that the great Demands she has made for Damages, suffer'd by her Subjects at Sea, were only a Pretext; and that having driven the *Dutch* from most of the Forts they possess on that Coast, she would not be easily brought to refer the restoring of them to your Majesty's Mediation, whatever Reason there was to hope she would do it as to her other Pretensions. But I must thereon represent to your Majesty all the Considerations that were enumerated to me by Monsieur *de Wit*, drawn from the present State of the Affairs of this Commonwealth, by which he's inclin'd to hope that your Mediation may still meet with Success.

In the first place, 'tis taken for granted here, that *de Ruyter* has secret Orders to go from the *Levant* to *Guiney* with thirteen great Ships, after he has taken in Provisions for six Months at *Cales*, under Colour of making War on the *Moors of Salley*; that *Lawson*, who is return'd to *England*, and saw him on the Coasts of *Spain*, reports this, and gives out he is in a Condition to execute whatever he shall undertake: So that this Fleet of thirteen Ships coming before that of *England*, and being able to Land 3500 Soldiers, will probably have time to retake the said Forts, and be in a Condition to clear the Sea of all Ships with *English* Colours. That this Consideration is likely to be the Cause Prince *Rupert*, who was to set sail, is countermanded; that for this Reason 'tis publish'd in *England*, the Duke of
York

York is appointed for this Voyage, that he is to be followed by the Flower of the *English* Nobility, and have a greater Strength, for which new Preparations are making; that the Ships which were ready here are sail'd to re-inforce *de Ruyter*, which may make the King of *England* reflect a little, and abate something of the Resolutions he has hitherto shewn in these Affairs; that, besides the *East-India* Company of this Country has offer'd the Lords the States to carry on the War with the *English* in the *Indies* at their own Expence, to drive them easily out of all the Ports they possess, provided the Grant of their Establishment be prolong'd twenty five Years; that this Design is very feasible, and that the *English East-India* Company are so afraid of it, that according to Advices from *London*, they murmur very much at this War; that they give out 'tis for the sole Interest of the Duke of *York*, and some Officers of the Court engag'd with him, and 'tis not just that they should without Reason break with Allies who offer to submit to a reasonable Accommodation, and ruin the richest Merchants of *England*, and an infinite number of Families embark'd in the Trade with them, for the Covetousness and Advancement of a new Company, and in Consideration of a few Courtiers who are of it. He added to that, 'tis very easie to involve the King of *England* in Troubles at Home; that the divisions of Sects create Malecontents, who may be without difficulty instigated to a Insurrection, when the Forces of that Kingdom are in Service at a distance. That the *Presbyterians* of *England* and *Scotland* have open'd themselves hereon to some Ministers of the States, and that they will do their utmost to bring as much Business as they can on the King of *England's* Hands, when they find there's no more hopes of Peace, of which they don't yet despair; that the Ambassador *Van Goch* writes, he had seen Monsieur *de Caminges*, who had told him, that the King return'd a more favourable Answer to his last Instances about the Mediation, than he had hitherto done, and demand-

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ing a Memorial from him, containing the States Reasons, he seem'd to be nearer an Accommodation than ever, which might be occasion'd by *Lawson's* Advice, the great Preparations making here, the Interest the Chancellor has in keeping the Duke of *York* at Home, and perhaps the Complaints of the *English East-India* Company.

That if, on the present Juncture, your Majesty would be so kind as to renew your Instances by your Ambassador with that King, and go so far as to declare, the Warmth you shew for an Accommodation comes only from a strong Desire to preserve a good Correspondence with him, and a Fear that it may happen to be disturb'd in the Course of this War, and the Interest you shall be oblig'd to take in it, if it continues in *Europe*: This last Consideration, improv'd as it might be, would strengthen all the others, and be sufficient to bring him off of the violent Councils he's push'd on to by the Duke of *York*, and the Company under his Protection, whose private Interest alone is the sole Occasion of the War.

That the Lords the States would still wait a while to see what all these Methods would produce, and would afterwards make use of those God had put into their Hands, to do themselves Justice for the Invasion made on 'em with so much Violence; if *England* refus'd to do it by your Majesty's Mediation.

These, Sir, are his Considerations, the Weight of which your Majesty will know better than I can, with all the Knowledge a long Acquaintance with these People may have acquir'd, and will thereby know which Party to embrace for the Interests of your Crown. 'Tis certain the People here are for Peace, that they would buy it at a Price with which *England* would be content if she would part with *Guiney*: And if *de Ruyter* does on that Coast, what is expected from him here; if he recovers the Forts that are taken, and beats what *English* Ships he meets with, in both one
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Case and the other, your Majesty's Mediation will infallibly be accepted of by the *English*, and produce a Peace to the Satisfaction of both Sides. : In the mean time, I do what I can to get Monsieur *de Wit* and the Chiefs of the State to accept of the Offers of their *East-India* Company, and now to make use of all Helps to weaken their Enemies; for I am satisfy'd, if some Blow given, or a Fear of one well-grounded, does not bring down the natural Pride of the *Englishman* to a Treaty, he will in his Prosperity refuse all that shall be propos'd by Mediation; and Monsieur *de Cominges* Instances will be to no Purpose, if they are not at the same time back'd by some vigorous Action on the States Part.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
October 30, 1664.

Monsieur *de Wit* visited me this Day, and renewing the Discourse we had in our Conference some Days before about the Affairs of *England*, I had an Opportunity to explain my self more clearly concerning the Obligations of the late Treaty; and to let him know, they had not as yet engag'd your Majesty to do any thing more than simple Offices with the King of *England* to incline him to Peace, which you had done fully, and would continue to do with so much Zeal, that the Lords the States should have no reason to be dissatisfy'd. He reply'd, your Majesty might add what he had already represented, some of which I gave you an Account of in my last, which is, to inform the King of *England* you should be oblig'd to concern your self in this War if 'twas continu'd in *Europe*; and the Fear he might have of that would at least incline him to agree there should be no act of Hostility between the two Nations, that they should carry them-

themselves throughout *Europe* as became good Allies, and that the War should only be push'd on as each Party should think it most for its Advantage. That in order to it, he had done his utmost to get the States to write to your Majesty about it, and consent to a Treaty of this Nature, that is, that they should be at Liberty to make War out of *Europe*, if they thought it for their Advantage. I was the more ready to receive this Proposal, because it seem'd to me to be entirely for your Majesty's Interest, in as much as by such a Treaty, if *England* consent to it, your Majesty avoids a War almost infallible, and nevertheless makes this Overture to her as if 'twas only for the Preservation of your Friendship, and preventing the only Occasion which presents to disturb it. Your Majesty will know what Means you will have to oblige her to receive it, and find out what Colours will render it most agreeable, it appearing of it self to be plausible.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
October 31, 1664.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 23d; it clears the Doubt I was in, express'd in my last, that is, whether the States are as well dispos'd to refer to my Judgment what relates to the Forts on the Coast of *Guiney*, and the Ships taken from them, as the other Pretensions the *English* have for Satisfaction for Losses for I perceive, by the *Sieur de Wit*'s Discourse to you, that 'tis only the last Point which the States would submit to my Decision. I shall soon be inform'd also what the King of *England* will do, as to both the one and the other, for the *Sieur de Cominges* has presented a Memorial to him in Writing, the Substance of which is, That provided he'll secure to the States the Restitution of the Forts and Ships, I will undertake to procure him entire Satisfaction from the States as to his

his Pretensions for Damages, and take Security for it of the States, that I may be the better able to answer my Promise to him. The said King answer'd the said *Sieur de Cominges*, he would let him know his Resolution as to the said Memorial; but had not done it when the Post came last from *London*, the 23^d Instant. When I know any thing further you shall be acquainted with it.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
November 6, 1664.

YOUR Majesty cannot act with more Zeal, than you have done with the King of *England*, for the Interests of the Lords the States. Your last Dispatch of the 31st past shews it plainly, and Monsieur *de Wit*, to whom I communicated it, is fully convinc'd of it, so that he hopes the new Instances Monsieur *de Cominges* will be order'd to use, after the Receipt of my Letters by the last Post, will produce new Dispositions to Peace in that Court, and render his Negotiation successful. But if the contrary should happen, besides the Resolution the States are in to enter into a War rather than abandon *Guiney*, and the Means they have prepar'd for it, at the Extremity they will accept the Proposal made 'em by the *East-India Company*, who at their own Expence offer to recover all the Forts which are taken, and keep all that Coast in Obedience to them, provided the Cession they demanded be made 'em. This Company, call'd that of the *Great Indies*, finds her account in this Treaty, because in case the *English* stay in *Guiney*, its Trade to the *Great Indies* will be lessen'd; and the other Company, call'd that of the *Little Indies*, being in some Difficulties, will in some measure get out of them by uniting

uniting with this, which is potent, and able to maintain 10000 Men, and 50 Ships at Sea.

The Obligation I lye under to inform your Majesty of every thing relating to your Interest, is the Cause that to omit nothing, I sometimes write Informations which are not clear enough; but your Majesty, who has Lights which I have not, will find out, better than I can, of what Consequence they may be to your Service. I submit all to your Discernment, and shall not alter my Method: I am now to acquaint your Majesty with such things as are privately reported, but by Persons who commonly have good Intelligence. 'Tis said the Bishop of *Munster*, by Monsieur *de Brabee* his Relation, has given *Friquet* to understand, that if the States are dispos'd to enter into a League with the Emperor and Duke of *Saxony*, he was sure his Imperial Majesty would hearken to Proposals, and he wou'd acquaint the Court of *Vienna* with their Disposition; which if they were favourable to the said Treaty, he had nothing to do but to go thither and inform the Emperor of it, who would send him back with full Power to treat, and that upon Conditions with which they should have good Reason to be satisfy'd: 'Tis said also, that the Pope is willing to enter into this League with the Emperor. Your Majesty will see what Dependance is to be made on this Advice, and be pleas'd to accept of it as a Mark of my Zeal, and my Application in your Service.

Letters from *Germany* eight Days since, inform'd us of the Surrender of *Erfort*, with Circumstances so glorious to your Majesty's Arms, that after the two Occasions wherein they have appear'd so *a propos* this Campaign for the Safety of the Empire, and maintaining the Rights of the Elector of *Mentz*, all your other Allies will easily comprehend that your Royal Protection is the greatest Security they can hope for, for the Preservation of their States. 'Tis a long time since, that I heard of a Proposal to sail to *China*, by the Northern *China*, but it being now hearken'd to by

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his Pretensions for Damages, and take ^{every mo-} of the States, that I may be the better ^{or think I} my Promise to him. The said ^{acquainting} said *Sieur de Cominges*, he would ^{your Pleasure} Resolution as to the said Memo ^{liquefort, to ob-} it when the Post came last fro ^{re tir'd out with} tant. When I know any ^{de People, to car-} acquainted with it. ^{than to England,} Purpose.

From the Count to the Count D'Estades:
November 7, 1664.

YOU had your Dispatches of the 30th past, and ^{you have seen} the In ^{presented to you,} which make him still hope my ^{Mediation will succeed,} notwithstanding the Design ^{each Parties seem to have form'd for the Possession of} de ^{Guiney.} But things have falln out otherwise, and the ^{King of England's Answer to the Writings presented} him by my Ambassador, will let you, and the *Sieur de Wit*, see he was out in his Judgment; however I shall not give over, and you may tell the said *Sieur de Wit* from me, I will still do what the States desire from my Friendship, to endeavour to get the King of *England* to be content, that if the War between the two Nations is unavoidable, it shall at least be out of *Europe*, representing to him the Considerations the *Sieur de Wit* took notice of to you thereon, to oblige him the more to accept of this Proposition, and that I will undertake the States shall consent to it. This new Order shall be sent to the *Sieur de Cominges* to Morrow infallibly, and you shall forthwith be advis'd of the Success this last Attempt meets with.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
November 13, 1664.

of England's Answer to Monsieur de
notial, and that to the Ambassador
entirely convince the Lords the
d upon a War, and they take all
ordingly, without giving over their
our Majesty will continue your good Of-
vent it.

Swiss Fleet is still in the Road of *Goree*, it has
in more Provisions, and 'tis thought 'twill sail
with the first fair Wind, notwithstanding some Re-
ports that it is not to make the Voyage now *de Ruyter*
is gone thither, and that it keeps where it is, only to
amuse that of *England*, and give *Ruyter* time to reco-
ver the Forts. I have even had Information that the
States intend to send him ten great Ships in *March*
next, who are to bend their Course *North* about. A
little time will clear up these Matters.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
November 20, 1664.

FRIQUET's Proposal gets Ground so fast, and
was hearkned to so favourably by the Cities of *Hol-*
land, that I thought it my Duty to make use of the
most speedy Remedies to put an end to this Nego-
tiation, which I have with Joy effected, since I had
beforehand executed the Orders your Majesty gives
me.

To this end I visited Monsieur *de Wit*, to complain
of such a Proceeding, and to declare to him, that if
he did not as soon as possible break off the Nego-
tiation *Friquet* was carrying on with the Cities, I
would

would demand Publick Audience of the Lords the States, to complain of his Proposals of an Alliance, as an Infraction of the Treaty of 1662. That your Majesty was enough courted to enter into Alliances with the most powerful Kings and Princes of Christendom to comfort himself in it, and that all the World would by this judge, what Security there was in their Promises and Treaties. The said *Sieur de Wit* told me, 'twas true, the said *Friquet* prest him to hearken to this Alliance with the Emperor; but he had always given him such an Answer as shew'd he had nothing to hope for. I reply'd, that was not enough, and that to satisfy your Majesty, they should give him a positive Denial, with the Consent of all the Cities of *Holland*; that to hasten it, I would, when I left him, visit the Deputies of all the Cities, and talk to them as I did to him, which he approv'd of, and declar'd he would assist me in this Design. Wherefore I went immediately to all the Deputies, who receiv'd my Complaints favourably, and the next Day Monsieur *de Wit* was order'd by these Gentlemen to declare to *Friquet*, that the Alliance he propos'd with the House of *Austria* was impossible; that they had demanded the Friendship of *France*, when they might still have hop'd for that of *England*, and would never give your Majesty any Umbrage nor Occasion to change your good Will to the States. The *Sieur de Wit* having made this Declaration to the *Sieur Friquet*, the latter went to Monsieur *de Beverning*, Great Treasurer, to desire him to dispose Monsieur *de Wit* to hearken to the Proposal he had Orders to make from the Emperor, for accommodating the Differences this State had with the Bishop of *Munster*, the Duke of *Newburgh*, and the Elector of *Cologne*; which Monsieur *de Beverning* was not willing to deny, and Monsieur *de Wit* has promis'd that those neighbouring Princes shall have Satisfaction according to Justice; but said at the same time, there must be no more mention made of the Alliance. The said *Sieur de Wit*, came to me to tell me of it, and said,

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whatever Satisfaction those Princes receiv'd of the Lords the States, 'twill appear they would have obtain'd it sooner by your Majesty's Recommendations than other Princes. He added, the Marquis de Castel Rodriga had offer'd this State his Mediation to accommodate Matters with the Bishop of Munster, but that it would not be accepted.

I inform'd the Sieur de Wit of a Conference Downing had two Days ago at eleven a Clock at Night with Friquet at Kopes, the Elector of Brandenburg's Resident. Downing told Friquet, 'twas time for the Emperor to open his Eyes, and be reveng'd for all the Injuries and Oppressions the States had committed on their neighbouring Princes who held of the Empire. That now a fair Occasion offer'd, for he was order'd by the King, his Master, to offer him to enter into any League with the Emperor, and to hearken to no Accommodation with the States, 'till entire Satisfaction was given as well to the Emperor as the neighbouring Princes. Friquet reply'd, he would dispatch away an Express next Day to give the Emperor an account of his Proposal. The said Sieur de Wit, still hopes the King of England may give over his Design of making War upon them, on the last Orders your Majesty sent to Monsieur de Cominges, which may perhaps bring him to accept of the Wars being carry'd only out of Europe.

The States Fleet is still detain'd by contrary Winds, Admiral Opdam is very ill, and like to die. If the Frost comes, the Ice will hinder the Fleet's departure, and they must stay 'till Spring, before they can undertake a Voyage to Guiney.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
November 27, 1664.

I Have communicated to Monsieur *de Wit*, the King of *England's* Answer to the first Proposal made him from your Majesty, by Monsieur *de Wit*, to remove the War and all Hostilities out of *Europe*. And afterwards I acquainted him in the same Terms contain'd in your Majesty's Dispatch, with the Advice you gave the Lords the States to detain their Fleet in their Ports under one Pretext or other, that there may be the more means and time to manage an Accommodation.

Monsieur *de Wit* told me, he would inform the Lords the States of it, and doubted not but they would pay a very great Deference to the good Council your Majesty gave them.

In the Evening he came to me from the said States, to tell me that pursuant to your Majesty's Advice, they had resolv'd to keep their Fleet in their Ports 'till Spring. But they had charg'd him to represent to me, that after the Rupture the King of *England* had made in *Guiney*, without giving 'em any Satisfaction on their Complaints, but on the contrary, issuing out Orders to sieze all *New-Holland* on the Coast of *Acadia*, which the States had been in Possession of sixty Years, to refuse your Majesty's Proposal to remove the War and all Hostilities out of *Europe*, and continue to evade your Majesty's Mediation, 'twas plain enough the King of *England* broke with them out of Animosity, which being so, they doubted not your Majesty would be ready to execute the Treaty of 1662. That if you would be pleas'd, seeing you were so well inform'd of their Conduct and Proceeding in the whole Course of this Affair, to give the King of *England* to understand by Monsieur *de Cominges*, that if he attack'd
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the Lords the States without any Reason in *Europe*, you should be oblig'd to declare for them by Virtue of the Treaty, they were satisfy'd the King of *England* would be glad to hearken to an Accommodation, rather than expose himself to a Rupture with your Majesty. He told me further, *Sweden* and *Denmark* assur'd them they would observe the Treaties they had made with them, and even enter into closer Alliances, and make up the Differences between *Sweden* and this State about the Treaty of *Elbing*. That likewise the King of *Denmark* demands not to be prest for the Payment of the Sums he owes the States, That with both the One and the Other, the Lords the States, would always pass by your Majesty's Mediation. And knowing the Proposals made by the Ambassadors of *England* against this State in those Courts, had been refus'd, they doubted not when your Majesty had explain'd your self to the King of *England* on the Engagement you are in by the Treaty of 62 with the said States, the two Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark* will declare the same thing, and your Majesty have the Glory and Advantage to have procur'd the Peace and Repose of your Allies by your Mediation and Authority, and the States will not fail to contribute whatever they can tending to the same End, as well in following your Majesty's wholesom Councils, as in any thing else whatsoever.

I reply'd, I would give your Majesty an Account of what he had told me from the States; but I could already assure him, that as your Majesty had hitherto done all that you could do to incline the King of *England* to Peace; so I doubted not your Majesty would in due time execute what you had engag'd to do by the Treaty of 1662, provided they on their side acted fairly, and did not hearken to Proposals against your Majesty's Interests. He answer'd, you should have no Reason to complain of the said States, and things were now on such a Foot, that they would never depart from your Interests.

I had the same Day a Conference with the said *Sieur de Wit* on the Affairs of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, having receiv'd the Letter your Majesty did me the Honour to write me by the *Sieur Planspel*, who is arriv'd here to sollicite that Affair. We have set a Day this Week to examine it, which having inform'd the *Sieur Planspel* of, he seem'd mighty well pleas'd, and thank'd me for it. I shall be sure to omit nothing to promote his Interests, pursuant to your Majesty's Orders.

The Lords the States have exprest themselves to be very sorry, that your Majesty's Troops are retir'd from *Gigni*. They had observ'd since the taking of that Port, some of their Subjects Ships have been taken, which they attributed to the Importance of the Place, which took up the *Cotfairs* so much, that they durst not put to Sea before.

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: November 28, 1664.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, we have so much Inclination and Desire to favour you in all things, that we should not have staid for your Request, to take off the Prohibition on Trade between this Kingdom and the *United-Provinces*, If it had been in our Power to have done it without exposing our Subjects to very great Danger, over whose Safety we are oblig'd to watch; you know as well as our selves, 'tis not a Reason sufficient and strong enough for restoring the said Commerce, to say, the Distemper (with which God has afflicted you) is much decreas'd, for the Divine Mercy must first have made it quite cease. Because a Spark of such a Disease (which no Body can promise shall not fall) would be sufficient to ravage

vage and depopulate whole Provinces of our State, which would be the more grievous to us, for that 'twould be our own Fault. You know the Practice of all *Italy* and *Spain*, with Respect to *Provence* and *Languedoc*, for one of our Cities, only which is now infected; the Original of which Infection, you your selves cannot be ignorant. In the mean while, our Concern is as great as yours, to see our selves forc'd by the Sovereign Law of the Publick Good, still to Exercise this Rigour towards you, if a necessary Treatment ought to be so call'd. A Treatment our Subjects exercise towards their Countrymen, as well as your Provinces, as is seen by the Sequestration of *Toulon*, and other Places of our Kingdom. All we can do on this Occasion, is to pray to God, as we do fervently, that he will be pleas'd forthwith to withdraw his Arm from off of you, and that he will have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Paris*, November 28, 1664.

Your good Friend, Allie and Confederate,

De Lionne.

LOUIS.

Superfcrib'd,

*To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates,
the Lords the States-General of the United-Pro-
vinces of the Low-Countries.*

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, November 29, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that the King, his Master, having an Occasion of some Masts, Sails, Anchors, Cordage, and other Utensils, for fitting out some Frigats his Majesty has built 'at Dunkirk; he had order'd the Sieur de la Garde Belin, his Agent at Amsterdam, to buy them, who going about it, was hindred by Virtue of your Lordships Prohibitions, to carry any such Things out of your Provinces. Now this Purchase being but of very little Consequence, and in no wise injurious to your Lordships Interest; the said Ambassador Extraordinary entreats you to permit the said Sieur de la Garde Belin to export for the King, his Master, twenty five or thirty Masts with Sails, Anchors, Cordage, and other Utensils necessary for the fitting out the said Frigats, assuring your Lordships his Majesty will shew his Acknowledgments of this Favour on all Occasions wherein your Lordships may stand in need of his Majesty. Done at the Hague, November 29, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
December 4, 1664.

I With a great deal of Joy saw by the Letter your Majesty did me the Honour to write me last Month, that you were satisfy'd with my Conduct as to what past touching the League propos'd by the *Sieur Friguet*, who has already let the Emperor know there is no hope of bringing this Project about; I told the *Sieur de Wit* and the rest, who behav'd themselves well in this Affair, what your Majesty ordered me: They all promis'd me to be always firm in your Interests, and to pay a Deference, on all Occasions to your Councils, as they have done to that of detaining their Fleet, and ordering the Ships into their Ports, to give your Majesty more time to endeavour after an Accommodation.

The Commodore *Trump* Sail'd from the *Goree* two days ago with eighteen Ships, ten of which are bound for *Guiney*, four for *India*, and four for *Smirna*, the rest of the Fleet is at the *Goree*, and will still stay some days there, making as if they would still pass thro' the Channel to keep the *English* Fleet on that side, and render *Trump's* Passage the safer: In eight or ten days the rest of the Fleet will return, each Squadron to its Admiralty. Secret Orders are given for disarming, but 4000 Seamen will be kept up and quarter'd, in the Maritime Cities, with 5 Sols a Day pay while they are a Shore.

Downing may perhaps have a Reprimand from his Master for not giving him advice of the Departure of this Fleet, as he had for *de Ruyter's* Voyage. Affairs are now manag'd with more Secresie than ever, and had not the *Sieur de Wit*, and most of the Deputies of *Holland* shewn me they had no Reservation for your Majesty, I should have known no more than he of it.

Your Majesty may rest satisfy'd that the States cannot be better dispos'd than they are at present to every thing

thing which relates to your Service, and I doubt not they will continue to carry themselves thus, knowing, as they do, 'tis for their own Advantage; I shall omit nothing to encrease this good Disposition of theirs, pursuant to your Majesty's Instructions in your Dispatches.

I had the Honour to write you last Post what happen'd on the Advice I gave the *Sieur de Wit* of *Downing's* Conference with *Friquet* and the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Resident. The said *Sieur de Wit* could not help thanking me for this Information, and acknowledg'd he perceiv'd by that, your Majesty's Pleasure was to favour them on all Occasions, which I confirm'd, telling him it was true, and that I had orders to be as watchful of their Interests, as of your own; with which he seem'd very well satisfy'd. I then told him, your Majesty thought it convenient to put an end to the Differences between the Elector of *Brandenburgh* and them, as also those with the Neighbouring Princes; that if Matters could not presently be adjusted, they should endeavour to decide them among themselves, by giving them hopes, which might be insinuated to each a part, to hinder their Uniting and making of several particular Interests one common one: He highly approv'd of this Council, and said, he would make use of it in case an Accommodation could not be made with the Neighbouring Princes; but he hop'd all things would be Adjusted.

As to the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Affair, I shall in your Majesty's Name, recommend it to the Deputies of the Province of *Holland*, during their Session, because 'tis only *Holland* that lent that Sum to the said Elector; the other Provinces are not concern'd in it; but the *Sieur de Wit* desiring the Elector's Pretensions may be Examin'd in Presence of his Envoy, I shall not mention it to the States of *Holland* 'till the said Conference is over, which the *Sieur Blanspel* his Envoy has agreed to. I think it more glorious for your Majesty to continue to comprize the Bishop of *Munster* in the
 Recom-

Recommendation I am to make to the States of the Interests of all the Princes with whom they have any Differences, than to distinguish him for his ill Conduct, and it will be the more shame for the said Bishop of *Munster*, as your Majesty very well observes, to find you protect his Interest at the same time he has left yours; this Reflection will not be useless as well in this Country as elsewhere.

I am to take notice to your Majesty, that before I appear to use publick Instances in your Name in behalf of these Princes, the Province of *Holland* must be dispos'd to, and solicited about the Affair of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and that likewise of the Duke of *Newburgh* for the Exchange of *Ravestein*, and that of the Elector of *Cologne* as to the Tolls at *Rhinberg*; the business must come before the Council of State, because it relates to Customs, Demesnes, and Elections of Magistrates of which the Council of State is Judge.

After Matters are regulated there, and only the Resolution of the States-General is wanting, I will wait on the President for the Week, Recommend the Affair of all the Princes in your Majesty's Name, and give him a Memorial on that Subject to be read in the Assembly. I have caus'd the Letter concerning the restoring Commerce, your Majesty wrote the Lords the States, to be deliver'd to them. They still make new Instances from time to time, being press'd by the People to do it; but time is gain'd, and the Distemper is now almost quite gone.

Your Majesty foresaw very well in your Dispatch, that my Lord *Fitzharding's* Arrival would give Umbrage here. There are Letters from *England* importing, that the Treaty of Alliance, with an Offensive and Defensive League, between your Majesty and the King of *England* is on the Point of being concluded: The *Sieur de Wis* spoke of it to me very modestly, and as if he did not believe any thing of it; I by way of confidence shew'd him the Article on this Subject contain'd

tain'd in your Majesty's Dispatch, with which he was so well satisfy'd, that he went directly from me to the Assembly to report it to his Masters. I can assure your Majesty, you are in such Consideration with the States, that they had not more Respect nor Deference for the late King *Henry the Fourth*, than they have for your Majesty, which will appear by their Conduct; for they resolv'd this Morning to form no important Design in the Affairs which may happen to them, without first consulting your Majesty, and receiving your good Advice concerning their Conduct.

The *Sieur de Wit* confesses he was mistaken in believing your Majesty's last Orders for the Negotiation with the King of *England* would dispose him to accept of your Mediation, which had infallibly been follow'd by an Accommodation. But it appears by this Refusal, he was resolv'd to break with the States, and fully bent on Attacking them; wherefore they hop'd they should be supported by your Majesty according to the Reciprocal Obligation of the Treaty of 1662: I answer'd him in general Terms, that your Majesty was always very well affect'd to the Lords the States; that they every Day receiv'd new Proofs of it, and that you would certainly do your utmost to procure Peace between your Allies, and avoid the Misfortunes the War wou'd bring on both Parties. I was not willing to enter farther into Discourse on this Matter, in which I saw plainly, the *Sieur de Wit* would have engag'd me.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
December 4, 1664.

THE *Sieur de Wit* has been with me from the States-General to tell me, they had resolv'd to send Monsieur *Van Beuningen* to your Majesty to inform you particularly of their Conduct, as to every thing which has pass'd between the King of *England* and Them within these

these six Months; that they should order him to demand your good Advices upon all things, which they would entirely pursue, and govern themselves by your Counsels, to shew your Majesty by all their Actions that you have no Allies more Faithful nor more Zealous for your Service than they: He told me afterwards, the said *Sieur Van Beuningen* was now quite of another Opinion, than what might have given your Majesty any trouble in such an Employment: That you wou'd find him incline to every thing that was for the Advantage of *France*; that he had given Proofs of it in *Friquet's* last Proposal, it being he who got the City of *Amsterdam* to refuse that League.

That he had so well seconded him in other Cities, that he had as great a share as himself in the favourable Sentiments they Demonstrated for your Majesty's Interests, and being now alter'd as to any thing which might have before given him a dislike to him, he thought the Lords the States cou'd not have nam'd a Person more able, nor better affected for the Common Interest than him; that if his Conduct displeas'd your Majesty, they would soon recall him, but that he was very well satisfy'd you wou'd be pleas'd with him.

I reply'd, he knew what reason I had to believe the said *Van Beuningen* was not well Affected, that he knew besides, when once he had an Opinion of a thing in his Head, nothing cou'd make him alter it, and that such a Behaviour wou'd not be agreeable to your Majesty; that all I cou'd say to him was, if he was what he had represented to me, your Majesty was so clear sighted that you wou'd soon find him out, and according to your Judgment of him, the Lords the States Affairs wou'd go well or ill.

Afterwards the said *Van Beuningen* came twice to see me, he not only confirm'd every thing the said *Sieur de Wit* had said, but added, he had got the consent of the Lords the States not to stay a day in *France* after your Majesty had declar'd that his Person was not agreeable

to you. I suppose, after such a Declaration, he will carry himself to your Majesty's Satisfaction.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
December 5, 1664.

WHen the *Sieur de Wit* desir'd in the Name of the States that I wou'd let the King of *England* know the Obligation I lay under by our late Treaty to assist them against any one that attack'd them, the said *Sieur de Wit* did not know what I since wrote you, that I have given my Lords *Hollis* and *Fitzharding* to understand as much in very clear and intelligible Terms, upon occasion of the Project of a Treaty of Commerce with *England*, being again spoken of here. Nevertheless this Declaration, contrary to the said *de Wit*'s Opinion, has not hinder'd the *English* from persisting in their Resolution to attack the *Dutch Fleet*, if it appears in the Channel.

Asto the Assurances the said *de Wit* continues to give you, that the States will hearken to no Proposals against my Interests, from which they will never depart; to speak freely and confidently to you, I believe I may depend upon it while they are in danger, and hope for Assistance in their War with *England*; but I do not know whether when their Affairs have another Face for the Accommodation of their Differences, I can promise my self that they will hearken no more to the Overture made by the Bishop of *Munster* to League with the Emperor, and other Princes of the Empire, and perhaps with the King of *Spain*, even for the Differences about the *Netherlands*; so strong an Impression is on their Imagination, that nothing is more contrary to the States Interest than my Progress in *Flanders*, and the Neighbourhood of the Armies of *France*; wherefore if the case happens that they use formal Instances with me to assist them in conformity to their late Treaty, I think that as by the
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same Treaty they are reciprocally oblig'd, with respect to me, inviolably to preserve their Friendship with this State, and do nothing against my Interests, as a true Friend ought to do; I shall be equally intitled, before I assist them effectually, to demand of them that they give me a new Assurance, in the form I shall desire, for my entire Security, that they will never hearken to a like League with any Prince so contrary to my Interests; otherwise 'twill in the end be found that I have my self furnish'd them with the means to do me a Mischief: All this ought to remain a Secret, it being not yet time to declare it. But 'tis convenient you be advis'd of it beforehand, to the end that having this always in view, you may betimes dispose things in order to it.

I am very well satisfy'd with the Offer I have made the *Sieur de Wit*, to refer all the Differences between the United Provinces, and the Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, to my Mediation. And as I am inform'd by other Hands that the two Kings are not against it, unless one of 'em has taken contrary Measures with *England*, in the Passage of the Ambassador *Carlisle* at his return from *Moscow*, so I shall always be ready to interpose for a good Accommodation between the Parties.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
December 11, 1664.

I Receiv'd the Dispatches your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the fifth of this Month; nothing can be added to the Thought your Majesty communicated to me, to take your Precautions before you are press'd by the States to declare against *England* pursuant to the Treaty of 1662: I shou'd have been glad to have been dispens'd with touching this matter, 'till I had receiv'd new Orders from your Majesty. The Case not yet happening to speak of it, but being inform'd

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that

that on the last Dispatches from *England*, and on the Rupture of that Kingdom with the Lords the States, they have dispatch'd a Courier to the Sieur *Van Benningen*, to give him express orders to demand the 12000 Men of your Majesty, the Succours stipulated by the said Treaty, the Minute the Rupture shall be made. I thought 'twou'd be for your Majesty's Service to offer the Sieur *de Wit* as from my self, without engaging, in any thing, what are your Majesty's Sentiments in this matter. And the said Sieur coming to see me, and aggravating the King of *England*'s Rupture by seizing all the Ships belonging to this State in his Ports, and taking those which came from *Bordeaux* and other Ports of *France*, telling me the States hop'd your Majesty, pursuant to the Treaty, wou'd send them the 12000 Men Succours after this Act of Hostility committed by the *English*, and afterwards, at the Time fix'd, declare entirely for them.

That the States had given order to the said Sieur *Van Benningen* to entreat it of your Majesty, and to press it, not doubting but so solemn a Treaty made with your Majesty will be accomplish'd in all Points: I reply'd, he had seen, by my preceding Dispatches, that your Majesty had done all the States desir'd, as well by your good Offices with the King of *England* in their behalf, as by the Answers you have given my Lords *Hollis* and *Fitzharding*; that he had express'd himself to me on the part of the States, that your Majesty cou'd not do more; but talking to me now of a Succour of 12000, and afterwards of a Rupture by your Majesty, I could say only from my self any thing further, having no knowledge of the Articles of the said Treaty, nor what Engagement there was for a Rupture on either side; making as if I was ignorant of it, the better to find out his Sentiments, without his being able to penetrate my Design. I told him I could not apprehend how this Treaty cou'd be conceiv'd as he told me it was; so that your Majesty cou'd have no Advantage by it, in as much as the States had several Sovereign Kings and Princes their Neighbours, who frequent-

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ly had Quarrels with them. And thus your Majesty would always be expos'd to a War for their Interest, which was not equal on your side, there being no likelihood of your having a Quarrel with any one but the King of *Spain*: And thus they are in no Fear of a Rupture for your Majesty's Interest, but with that one King, which made me think the Conditions he told me of were not so favourable to your Majesty as to them.

He reply'd, Your Majesty was not oblig'd to defend them, if they were Aggressors, without sufficient and well verify'd Grounds, but only when they were attack'd, as at present they are, by the King of *England*; that if the King of *Spain* should attack your Majesty they would break with him by Land and Sea; but also if your Majesty attack'd him, without sufficient and well verify'd Grounds, they were not oblig'd to assist you; which, said he, is reciprocally specify'd on both sides on the said Treaty.

To this I said, making as if I did not comprehend what he talk'd of to be contain'd in the Treaty, That if the States had found Reasons to maintain that they had not been wanting to your Majesty in the Treaty of *Munster*, they would certainly find out others when the Case happen'd, to prove, that if your Majesty attack'd the King of *Spain* with Grounds, there were not sufficient to exact giving their Succours contain'd in the said Treaty of 1662. That 'twould be much better for the Lords the States, to give your Majesty new Assurances, in the Form you should desire, for an entire Security, that they would never hearken to any Proposition of a League with the Emperor, or the other Princes of the Empire, nor with the King of *Spain*, for the Defence of the *Low Countries*, so contrary to your Interests.

He answer'd, your Majesty ought to trust to them; that my Thought of giving this new Assurance to your Majesty, was quite contrary to the said Treaty, and especially to the Article of Guaranty; that it could not be done without breaking it, and producing very

all Effects in the Peoples Minds; that they would rather resolve to charge themselves alone with the War with *England*, and to be abandon'd by your Majesty, than consent to have the said Treaty alter'd; that I knew it took up six Months to get *Dunkirk* compriz'd in the Article of Guaranty, though that did not alter the Treaty made at *Paris*, and that 'twas already publish'd in the Provinces, there was no Security in what had been treated of in *France* with your Majesty.

That to take away all Umbrage of the Objections I made him, there was but one Way only, to resume the Project made between us, which he always thought would bind the States eternally to your Majesty, and remove all sorts of Suspensions, by a Division which would decide all the Differences which could arise.

I reply'd, without being willing to enter farther into the Matter, that having not seen the said Treaty of 1662, I told him only my own Sentiments; in discourse upon which we were insensibly fallen, without any Design.

Your Majesty will, by what I have said hereon, and by my last Letter, see what Measures are to be taken with the States. I'm apprehensive that if they are once convinc'd the Treaty of 1662 is not observ'd, all *Downing* has said, and caus'd to be put in the News-Papers, and what *Friquet* and *Risbard* have reported, will oblige those People to engage in the Interest propos'd to them; and I very much suspect that Monsieur *de Wit*, who is Cunning and Politick, has come to some sort of Understanding with *Friquet*, in case he finds any Excuses are sought for, not to accomplish the said Treaty of 1662. But your Majesty knows better than any Body what is for your Advantage, and has Intelligence from all Parts to let you see what is to be fear'd in these Matters. As for me, I know *Holland* only, I penetrate no farther, and shall only endeavour to follow exactly the Orders I receive from your Majesty, and most humbly entreat you to do me the Honour to believe that I am, &c.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
December 11, 1664.

I Send your Majesty the Copy of two Letters, the Lords the States receiv'd from their Ambassador in England, which declare the Rupture, and by means of one of my Friends I have got the Resolution they came to thereon; and above all, that of sending an Express to Monsieur Van Benningen to press your Majesty to perform the Conditions of the Treaty, since the Rupture is made. Downing has caus'd it to be put in the News-Papers, that my Lord Fitzharding was return'd, very well satisfy'd with your Majesty on the Assurances you had given him, not to assist the Dutch, which the King his Master had declared in Publick.

Monsieur de Wit came afterwards to give me a Visit, not that he seem'd to be concern'd at this Proceeding of Downing, but to acquaint me with the Visits Friguier had made him two Days together. He pretended 'twas to take his Leave of him, being going to Brussels to confer with Castel Rodrigo, from thence he is to go to the Bishop of Munster, and from thence to the Emperor at Vienna. He complain'd to the Sieur de Wit of his having refus'd the propos'd League, but he hop'd he would one Day repent of it; for that 'twas already perceiv'd that the great Engagements the States had enter'd in to with France, wou'd not last long, since by Advice from several Places 'twas confirm'd, that your Majesty had made an Agreement with England, and only endeavour'd to amuse the States with fair Appearances; he was therefore willing to tell him before his Departure, that he quitted the Certain for the Uncertain. The Sieur de Wit reply'd, he had Reason to believe your Majesty lov'd the State, and was very exact in keeping your Treaties, which appear'd in the Assistance you gave the Bishop of Mentz; that he assur'd him the States wou'd never hearken to any League against your Interests,

terests, and he cou'd not think your Majesty wou'd be wanting to them.

Friquet said afterwards, by way of Threats, I see you give your selves up and submit entirely to the Will of *France*; but I would have you know, you will e'er long make a great number of very powerful Princes your Enemies. To which the *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, that his Masters being protected by your Majesty wou'd not be afraid of all the Princes he spoke of together. The said *Friquet* went next Day, the 8th of this Month, towards *Brussels*.

Richard has deliver'd very civil Letters from *Castel Rodrigo* to the States, much more civil than those the other Governors us'd to write. He has also written in very obliging Terms to *Monsieur de Wit*.

He desires he may interpose as Mediator to accommodate the Differences between the Bishop of *Munster* and this State. They have thank'd him by way of Compliment. All the *Spanish* Faction mind nothing so much as to insinuate into the Deputies of the Cities, that your Majesty will leave the War with *England* on the Hands of the *Dutch*, without assisting them, according to the Obligation of the Treaty: *Monsieur de Wit*, and the most intelligent of them, do not believe it, but the Populace do. I omit nothing which I think necessary to destroy these Reports; and I can give *Monsieur de Wit* this Commendation, he cou'd not have talk'd better than he did in full Assembly to two Deputies of *Haerlem* and *Dart*, who read Letters importing, that your Majesty and the King of *England* were agreed. He took them up and told 'em the Letters they read were written by *Downing*, and that he knew his Stile; that your Majesty was the Father of this State, and they might assure themselves you would never abandon your Children. These two Deputies are of the contrary Party to *Monsieur de Wit*. I thank'd him heartily for all these Things, and for communicating to me what pass'd between him and

Friquet,

Friguet, and exhorted him as much as I cou'd to continue so to act.

We had a long Conference about the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Affairs; but there being abundance of Promises and Contracts made at divers Times, to prove the Payments of which will take up a long Discussion, we concluded on nothing at this Conference; But the *Sieur de Wit* has come to this, to let it be try'd in a Court of Justice, either that of *Spire*, or of *Brabant*, provided the Elector gives Security for the Sums which he shall be order'd by Sentence in either Court to pay. The *Sieur Blasfpet* consents to it, but then he will have the States also give Security on the same Subject. The *Sieur de Wit* replies, the Case is not without Danger; for the States produce several Contracts and Promises for what is owing to them, whereas the Elector's Demands are without any Title.

Night parted Monsieur *de Wit* and me, and we have put off the reassuming of this Affair to next Week. I shall not fail to act with all the Care and Application I can, pursuant to your Majesty's Orders, as in an Affair which you very much espouse.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: December 12, 1664.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, has Orders from the King his Master to renew the Instances he has already us'd with your Lordships, to give the three Ships his Majesty has caus'd to be bought for his Service at *Amsterdam*, Licences to depart. One is call'd *Benmirs*, *Peter Gringere* Master; the other the *Concord*, the

Sieur

Sieur de Suers Master; and the third the *Postilion*, Gabriel Boulanger Master: And for as much as they are all ready to sail, to send Orders immediately to the Board of Admiralty at *Amsterdam*, to permit them to depart free and exempt from all Impositions, as your Lordships have been pleas'd to direct, that they may sail as soon as possible. The said Ambassador Extraordinary requests your Lordships that you will be pleas'd to grant Licences to two other Ships to sail, they being freighted by the Sieur de la Garde Belin, Agent for his Majesty's Affairs in the said City, with divers Things he is order'd to send to *France* for his Majesty's Service; of which the Ambassador Extraordinary assures himself your Lordships will make no Difficulty nor Delay. Given at the *Hague*, the twelfth Day of *December*, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
December 19, 1664.

I Receiv'd, your Dispatches of the 11th Instant, and was very glad to understand what pass in your Conference with the Sieur de Wit; wherein, as from your self, you touch'd a little on what I wrote you of the Inequality of the Conditions of the Treaty made with the States in 1662. There's no manner of Reason to call the giving me the Assurances you spoke of, Altering the Treaty. On the contrary, 'twould be a means to make it eternally firm, by removing all Umbrages on both sides. But that is not my greatest Trouble, for I believe that, besides the Difficulties which proceed from the Constitution of the State, where Secrets are not easily kept, 'twould be pretty hard to make 'em comprehend 'tis not just I shou'd support them in all the Wars with which they are threaten'd

threaten'd from several Quarters, and to find my self left alone, when the only Occasion I can stand in need of 'em, for shall happen. But my Concern is, that whatever Security they may now give against this Fear, 'tis not sufficient to satisfie me they will not act otherwise, when this Juncture shall offer; so strong Impression is on their Mind, that 'tis their Interest to have always a Barrier between *France* and their State.

As to their Union with the Emperor for the Defence of the *Netherlands*, I don't think 'tis very much to be fear'd, at least not this long while, or else they manage themselves very imprudently: For they cannot question the Emperor's being dispos'd to hearken to it, when ever they will; and consequently they have no Necessity to hasten their shocking me thereon, by doing a Thing unseasonably, which they may do at any Time. However, I confess to you I'm a little embarrass'd, considering if I execute the Treaty of 1662 to the Letter, I shall do a great Prejudice to my principal Interest; and that for a People from whom I shall have no Assistance, and whom I find directly contrary to me in that only wherein I may have occasion of their being favourable; and then the Assistance I shall have given them will turn all against my self.

Besides which I shall lose *England*, who is about entering into a close Alliance with the *Spaniards* on this Account, if I reject her Offers; and those Offers are, (I may very well trust the Secret with you) a *Carte Blanche* for every Thing I can desire as to the *Netherlands*, without pretending to an Inch of Ground for her self! Besides, the King of *England* suggests himself to me the Means how I may get off with Honour, as to assisting the *Dutch*. He pretends they are the Aggressors, that he has a Right to the Fort they seiz'd in *Guiney*, that they arm'd first; that they have made a National Quarrel of private Differences between two Companies, who should have decided it among themselves; that they committed the first Action, and Act of Violence, in abusing a Ship laden with *Masts* coming

coming from *Sweden*; and that 'tis plain I am not oblig'd to do any thing in *Europe*; for, except the Difference about *Guiney*, all the rest would be easily adjusted; and 'tis not just a War should be kindl'd in *Europe* on Account of my capricious maintaining a Country, for which I am not engag'd, because not being oblig'd for the Principal, I cannot be for the Accessory and Dependencies. I do not charge the States with the good Turn they play'd me at *Munster*, which would have brought this State into great Danger had I not had Strength enough, in my sole Might, to resist the whole House of *Austria*. All I write, you ought to keep to your self; and I desire, when you have well examin'd it, you will forthwith give me your Advice, which will weigh much with me, while I delay *Van Benningen's* Negotiations.

I address the Answer you thought proper for me to send to the Dowager of *Orange's* Letter to you.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
December 18, 1664.

I Was in some Pain for fear I had gone too far in the Conference I had with the *Sieur de Wit*, touching the Thought your Majesty communicated to me; but I hope you will approve of it, because you order'd me to draw on the Discourse dextrously as from my self; which I had no Occasion to do *Monsieur de Wit* having been twice with me since, has resum'd the same Discourse, and more than ever amplify'd on the States punctual Performance of whatever they are oblig'd to do by that Treaty of 1662, and that your Majesty may depend on their remaining inviolably engag'd in your Interests; Upon which I made use of the same Terms contain'd in your Majesty's Dispatch, that this was very well, now the said States were entering

entring into a great War, and they cannot be without your Majesty's Assistance able to resist so powerful an Enemy; but when the Danger they fear should be over, and they be in Possession of full Repose, by an Accommodation, if afterwards your Majesty should be forc'd by Accidents to enter on any Action for maintaining and pursuing your Interests, no Body can secure to him that he may depend on the States continuing to have the same Sentiments in his Favour, and the same good Dispositions they now shew.

That I told him at our last Conference, that since they had justify'd in Print they had not been wanting to your Majesty in the Peace of *Munster*, it may well happen they will not agree to your Majesty's Rights, but find out new Justifications not to enter into a Rupture.

He reply'd, when your Majesty made those Rights clear to the Lords the States, they would make no Scruple to side with you, according to the Obligation of the Treaty; and he would give me his Word for it, that they shall be as ready to pursue your Majesty's Interests being in full Peace, as they are now they have a War on their Hands and; they should be good for nothing if they did not always act with the Sincerity and Gratitude they owe to your Majesty for all the great Obligations you have lain on them. This Discourse was follow'd with so many Signs of Inclination to your Service, that he could not have added any thing to it.

I communicated to him what Advice your Majesty had receiv'd from *London*, desiring him so to manage it that no Body should know whence it came; which he promis'd me, and declar'd to me the States were very much oblig'd to your Majesty for your Kindness in acquainting them with it.

I then endeavour'd to feel Monsieur *de Wit*'s Pulse as to the States consenting at this Juncture to restore *Rhinberg* to the Elector of *Cologne*. He said 'twas not feasible; that the Provinces would never go back from a
Resolu-

Resolution taken to preserve their Conquests; that to propose it wou'd only create Jealousies, and I might judge, whether since the States wou'd not consent to it when their Ambassadors were requir'd, to do it by your Majesty, they wou'd not less do it now. The States of *Holland* break up on *Christmas* Eve for eight days only; Monsieur *de Wit* is so busie, that he must defer treating about the Affairs of the Neighbouring Princes 'till after the Holidays: The *Sieur Blaspsel* has agreed to it, and a draught of a Project relating to the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Interests is already drawn up.

I did not omit telling Monsieur *de Wit*, your Majesty had again order'd me to press the Restitution of the Estates belonging to the Order of *Malta*, giving him to understand, their Trade in the *Mediterranean* wou'd, 'twas to be fear'd, be interrupted by the Knights. He promis'd to do what he cou'd again; but if your Majesty thought fit to speak of it a little warmly to the *Sieur Van Beuningen*, 'twould have a very good Effect; he being certain, they wou'd do whatever he shou'd write about it.

Commadore *Trump* is return'd with his Squadron to the *Texel*. He Convoy'd the *India* Ships along the Coasts of *Scotland* to the Northern Sea.

The four Ships loaden with Provisions and Warlike Stores bound for *Guiney*, will not sail 'till *March* next.

Monsieur *de Ruigny's* Arrival in *England*, and *Downing's* publishing he is sent to the King his Master, to confirm the Union made by the Lord *Fitzbarding* in his Journey, raises Jealousies among the Deputies of the Cities, who are not the most clear-sighted, and very susceptible of ill Impressions. Monsieur *de Wit* ask'd me what was the occasion of this Voyage, tho' he did not believe what *Downing* publishes every where. I assur'd him it might be about some other Affair not relating to the States, and the more so, because your Majesty's Dispatch takes no notice of it. The said *Sieur de Wit* said, they had News by a Ship arrived from the *Me-*

diterranean,

Mediterranean, that the Captain who commanded the *English* Squadron in that Sea, had renew'd the Treaty of Peace with the *Algerines*, and that the *Sieur Van Benningen* had orders to propose to your Majesty to set out some Ships jointly against those *Corfsairs*. He gave me the States Answer to *Downing's* last Memorial, which I have join'd to this Dispatch.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:

December 25, 1664.

THIS most certain, as your Majesty very well observes, that whatever Security, whatever Precaution is taken with the States, one cannot depend upon their performing what they promise, when the time shall come that your Majesty would make good your Right in *Flanders*; and nothing in the World is capable of making 'em change their false Notion, of the great Interest they have in having always a Barrier between France and their State.

Neither can one any more expect to have the Secret kept in things treated of with them; concerning this matter. And the Constitution of the State is such, that tho' all the Provinces agreed to join with your Majesty for the Conquest of *Flanders*, and the Secret were kept, yet I question whether the Cities would come to a Resolution for the performance of what might be agreed upon, in case the thing happen'd. I make this Judgment of 'em by my Experience of their Conduct. Ten times have I seen the Affair of *Multha* adjusted, and broken off, by the single Vote of one Deputy of the City of *Utrecht* who would not consent to it. A vast number of other Affairs have miscarry'd through the false Impressions they have receiv'd of your Majesty's Ambition and Grandeur. I know as well as any one of what they are Susceptible, and how they are to be manag'd in all Affairs,

sairs, that is, with an incredible Care and Application to undeceive them, and after all comes a new Assembly of *Holland* full of new Deputies, who change Sentiments, and overturn all the former had done. This is what relates to the Disgust which might be taken against the States. It remains to consider what Inconveniencies it may produce. 'Tis very likely they will enter into an Alliance with the Emperor and the House of *Austria* for the Defence of the *Netherlands*, as soon as they find your Majesty will not join with him against *England*; they will hearken to no Reasons on that Head, tho' all that are contain'd in your Majesty's Dispatches are very strong, and what Monsieur *de Lionne* writes me of their having order'd their Ambassador at *Madrid* to hear the Proposals the King of *Spain* shall make 'em for the Defence of the *Netherlands*, lays the Charge against them of having been the first who committed any Infraction of the Treaty of 1662, and discharges your Majesty from the Obligation to execute it.

So that all things being well weigh'd, it seems to me to be most for the Advantage of your Majesty and your Subjects to prefer *England* to the States; the Terms the King of *England* offers your Majesty being too reasonable to be rejected, since he pretends to nothing in the Conquest of *Flanders*, and the States will never Treat with your Majesty, without the projected Partition be comply'd with.

The Assistance you may receive from *England* will be incomparably more ready and sure, for Orders may be given in an Instant by the said King, and executed in a Tide, because of the Proximity of the Places: 'Tis the contrary with the States, one must sometimes wait five or six Weeks for the Resolution of the States, and after that, perhaps three Months more for the Ships design'd for the Succours to get out of their Harbours. Add to this, if *England* unites with *Spain* against your Majesty, you will have her always on your hands in all Seas, and your Subjects will never be able to Trade quietly, which will cool their Application to it; where-

as, if *England* is in your Interests, she will be more warm in it; and a Treaty of Commerce may be agreed upon so as to lend each other mutual Assistance, either in the *Indies* or the *Levant*, by which means both wou'd press it by the Destruction of that of *Holland*, which wou'd then be infallibly destroy'd.

It having begun already to appear at *Amsterdam* this Year, where Commerce has brought in Ten Millions less than it did the former, on account of the Losses; and all the other Cities in proportion: On the contrary, if your Majesty be ty'd up according to the Treaty with the States, they will do their utmost to hinder your Majesty from entering into any Trade, and use all imaginable means to ruin it.

Your Majesty may also, by a Treaty with *England*, get *Acadia* restor'd, from *Paragones* to *Cape Breton*, which is fourscore Leagues of Coast, where there are abundance of very good Harbours, and oblige the King of *England* by the same Treaty to declare War with the *Iroquois*, whom the *Hollanders*, who had Habitations in their Neighbourhood, always assisted with Arms and Ammunition against us. By this means your Majesty will free *Canada* from the only Enemies there are in that Country, and attacking them on *Canada* side, and the *English* doing the same on theirs, they would all be destroy'd in a Year. By Reflecting still on what is above-said, I persist in my Sentiments, that there is more Safety and Advantage in Leaguings with the *English*, than with the *Dutch*, and more Damage to be fear'd in having the former contrary than the latter.

For if the latter do any thing against your Majesty's Interest, you may easily Chastise them, by assisting the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, the Elector of *Cologne*, and the Duke of *Newburgh*, who have wherewithal to maintain an Army in the Country of *Juliers* and *Gèves*, with your Majesty's Assistance, that may reduce the States to what Terms they please: It being impossible for 'em to maintain a War by Sea against the King of *England*, and by Land against those Princes.

I thought proper to put off pressing an Accommodation with them, 'till I have receiv'd fresh Orders from your Majesty, and we see how the States will behave themselves, after you shall have let them know your final Resolution.

I most humbly entreat your Majesty to excuse me, if I speak my Mind too freely, and to believe I do it out of Obedience, and Zeal, and the Passion I have for your Service, submitting my Sentiments entirely to your Majesty's great Knowledge in all things.

Your Majesty will permit me to say, if you wou'd have what shall be treated of between you and *England* a Secret, the *Sieur Downing* must know nothing of it; for he has said too much here already, and has even publish'd in the News Papers the good Intelligence between your Majesty and the King his Master: Nay, he has told several of the States there's an Offensive and Defensive League between *France* and *England*, and that nothing is done in *England* but in concert with your Majesty.

The Secretary to the *Dutch* Embassy in *England*, whose Name is *Cunajus*, a Creature of the *Sieur de Wit's*, arriv'd here two days ago; he has said in several Places, that the *Sieur Van Goch*, the States Ambassador, has great suspicion of some secret Intelligence between your Majesty and the King of *England*, and that he was sent to the Lords the States on purpose to give them advice of it. He adds, 'tis reported in *England*, your Majesty has bought *Tangier* of the said King, and that the Purchase-Money was laid out in Equipping of the Fleet.

In the Conference I had to day with the *Sieur de Wit* about Passes for the Packet-Boats, and the Orders I have demanded for taking off the Prohibitions, and suffering the sending away Masts and other Stores bought up for your Majesty, which the States had granted, I observ'd he was very uneasie and confus'd; he ask'd me ten times in half an hour, whether I thought your Majesty wou'd execute the Treaty of 1662. I reply'd,

I believ'd you would do all you was oblig'd to do; and that in order to it the Papers must be produced, and the Obligations on both sides examin'd, which he might be inform'd of by the *Sieur Van Bouningen's* Conferences with your Majesty, I thought it my Duty to give your Majesty on Account of what pass on this Occasion.

I have been considering as to the *Sieur de Wis*, that there's an Inconvenience to be fear'd in his being out with the States; For if he, and his Party, were ruin'd by the King of *England's* assuming Authority in the States, and restoring the Prince of *Orange* his Nephew to his Offices, he will be so far Master of these Provinces that your Majesty will have no more Credit here than the said King thinks fit; which I refer to your Majesty's Consideration, that you may examine whether this Precaution is reasonable; and if there are Ways to remedy it, by taking such Measures for it with the King of *England*, as you think best.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: December 26, 1664.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that the King his Master considering that the Packet-Boats, which go from *England* to *Calais* and *Dunkirk*, and return from those Places to *England*, may in the present Juncture of Affairs be disturb'd in the Sea by *Dutch* Ships, under Colour that they belong to the *English*; his Majesty has order'd him to request of your Lordships, that the said Packet-Boats may go and come with Freedom and Safety, without fear

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of being taken or stop'd by any of your Ships, as it
 happen'd twice in the last War you had with Eng-
 land: And besides the Profit which will accrue to the
 Publick by it, his Majesty is very much concern'd
 for the well-doing of those Affairs, and will even
 take it kindly if your Lordships will be pleas'd for a
 greater Security to grant at this time such Passports to
 the said Packet-Boats as shall be necessary to this Ef-
 fect. The said Ambassador Extraordinary requests
 also of your Lordships, Liberty of sailing with the
 first fair Wind, for the Ship *Sebastian*, belonging to the
 King his Master, which one *Passon* brought into the
Taxel, from whence being about to depart she was
 hinder'd by the Ships of this State, which fir'd at
 her, ev'n with Ball, to make her obey the Orders
 they had, not to let any Ships go out of the Ports
 of these Provinces; as also to grant Licence to depart
 to the Ships the *Sieur de la Garde Belin* is to send
 to France, laden with divers Goods he has bought for
 fitting the King's and the *West-India* Company's Ships;
 and to this End to take off the Prohibitions your
 Lordships have issu'd out, not to let any Warlike
 Stores be exported out of your Harbours, nor any
 Merchandize belonging to Maritime Affairs. Gi-
 ven at the *Hague* the twenty sixth of December, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 December 26, 1664.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 18th, and perceive
 what the *Sieur de Wit* said to you, when you brought
 on the Discourse I thought fit for you to hint to him,
 as from your self; but, to say the Truth, I should
 deceive my self if I should lay any Stress on all the
 fine

five Things he has said to you. He talks as he ought to do, especially at this Juncture, but were that not very distant from his Intention, as I'm convinc'd it is, I see he'll engage neither his Masters nor himself in any thing, having always this Evasion ready upon Occasion, when the Case shall happen, That he only spoke his Private Sentiments, and that the Majority must carry it. The Saying, *making Rights clear*, which he us'd, is also another Subterfuge ready prepar'd; for there are none in the World so clear, in any Difference whatsoever, but some Exceptions and contrary Reasons may be found out, which each admits for good, according to his Passion or Interest, and makes the other Party in the Wrong. As to the Zeal he wou'd persuade you, the States, were they in full Peace, wou'd have for my Interests, that does not agree with the certain Information I have, that the Lords the States have order'd, with great Secrecy, their Ambassadors at *Madrid* to hearken to the Proposals that should be made him, touching a League for the Defence of the *Netherlands*, and give an Account of it in his Dispatches, with the same Secrecy: In which, if I can prove the Thing without exposing the Person who gave me the Information from *Madrid* it self, which I neither will, nor ought to do, I might draw up a very just Complaint, that the Lords the States have already begun to make Infractions of our Treaty, since we have actually promis'd each other to procure each the Advantage of his Ally, and by another Clause to give each other Information of every Thing that shall pass of one of the two.

However, the States have not perform'd these two Articles, but with great Secrecy giv'n Orders to their Ministers to do me the greatest Prejudice they are able to procure to me. As for the *Sieur de Miro's* saying, they should be good for nothing if they did not at all Times act with the Sincerity and Gratitude they owe me, I shall make no Difficulty of granting him his Consequence; and you know what is commonly the

tude of Republicks in general, and this in Particular : You know also what Returns they made me at *Munster* for the Obligation this Crown has lain on 'em for their Sovereignty, their Establishment, and all their Grandeur. Wherefore they must offer me something else besides fair Promises ; and, as I have already written you, what most embarrasses me at this Juncture is, that I do not know what to ask of them, that I may think my self entirely secure, nor one time or other to see their Arms turn'd against me, after I have assisted them against the Enemies they have drawn on themselves by endeavouring to engross all the Trade of *Africa*, a Part of the World about which I am in no wise engag'd to them by this Treaty. These are my Doubts, my Suspicions, or rather my most just Fears. Upon which I wait to know your Sentiments with so much the more Impatience, because the *Sieur Van Beuningen* is arriv'd ; he has already seen those who serve me, and demands to see me, that is, to press me about Things very disagreeable to me ; but I can truly say they would not be so if I was the least assur'd of employing my Succours usefully to advance my Affairs, and not to have the Chagrin to act against my self.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : December 29, 1664.*

Monsieur *Van Beuningen* saw the King Yesterday in Private, and had the Convenience of discoursing his Majesty a full Hour and half ; that is, as long as he would : His Majesty told him he would reflect very seriously on all he had represented to him, that he would maturely examine the Matter, and that we should after see one another, and he would by the acquaint him with his Intentions.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, December 30, 1664.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, having seen your Lordships Resolution on the last Memorial he presented to you, and finding it not decisive, with respect to the Liberty and Safety of the Packet-Boats which go and come from *England* to *Calais* and *Dunkirk*; and from those two Places to *England*, and to the Safe Conducts and Passes, mention'd in his said Memorial, he earnestly requests your Lordships that you will be pleas'd to give him a positive Answer thereon, which he has express Orders from the King his Master to demand, and give his Majesty an Account of it by the next Post to *France*; which the said Ambassador Extraordinary assures himself the more your Lordships will not refuse, for that the King of *England* has already granted the same on his Part, and there's nothing in it that can be contrary to the Interests of this State, which will have the Advantage of it in common with the Publick. Given at the *Hague* the thirtieth of *December*, 1664.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
January 1, 1665.

I Perceive by the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the 26th past, that 'tis with great Reason you doubt whether the States Conduct will be what you wou'd have them; and they ought to observe, when you shall have occasion of them; and penetrating, as your Majesty does, with so much Clear-sightedness into their Intentions, and the Consequences you draw from all the Points contain'd in your Dispatches, to ground your just Fear in so delicate a Manner, there remains nothing for me to represent to you thereon.

Monsieur de Wit came to give me an Account of Monsieur *Han Banningh*'s Dispatch. He seems to be surpriz'd at the Ministers endeavouring to persuade him that the War having begun in *Guiney*, your Majesty was not oblig'd to the Guaranty; to which he answer'd, that coming afterwards into *Europe*, tho' it began in *Guiney*, your Majesty was not the less oblig'd to the Guaranty, as is clearly specify'd in the Secret Treaty between *France* and *England*. The Coldness he met with in your Ministers is a Matter of Astonishment to him. He adds, they have declar'd what they said to him was from themselves, not knowing your Majesty's Intentions on this Subject, from whom he would learn them the Sunday following, when he was to have his Audience. The said *Sieur de Wit* did not appear to me to be less surpriz'd.

He impatiently expects to know what your Majesty will resolve thereon. I excus'd entring farther into Discourse about it, referring my self to what we talk'd in our Conference last Week on this Subject.

The *Sieur Friquet* is return'd from *Brussels*; *Castel Rodrigo* has sent him back, not thinking it proper for him to go to *Germany*.

Don

Don Estren de Gamorre is to return hither the 6th of this Month; both of 'em press the propos'd League. Your Majesty in this Juncture, will doubtless do what you think most for your Interests: But I pray you to give me leave to represent to you that the Words and Promises of these Men are not to be trusted to, it being not in their Power to keep them, for the Reasons your Majesty has so judiciously lain down in your Dispatches, after which there is no more to be said. I take the Liberty, Sir, to propose to you, that if, for the greater Security of the Engagements, the States enter'd into with your Majesty, they should be brought to a new Treaty, 'twou'd be convenient they should treat with you for *Maastricht*; for that Place opening a Passage into the Heart of their Country, and considering the Union which is at present between your Majesty and the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, that of *Colgn*, and the Duke of *Newburgh*, they would be oblig'd to observe the Treaties they made; and in case they did not, 'twou'd be no difficult Matter to chastise them; and I don't believe they dare make any Infraction of 'em. My Thought is, that in this Treaty an Article should be included to oblige them to break with the King of *Spain*, and House of *Austria*, when and as often as your Majesty shall be oblig'd to break with them to maintain the Queen's Rights, without permitting them to examine whether they are just or not. 'Tis sufficient that your Majesty thinks them so, to remove all Occasion of Disputes; and that they have no share of *Flanders*, or any other Country within the Limits of the Queen's Pretensions to the Succession: Unless Things be so specify'd, I cannot see any Safety there is in a Treaty with the said States. I doubt not but your Majesty will suppose the States will not accept of either of these Conditions, but will keep to the Words of the Treaty of 1662, which they will not have alter'd, and which they pretend gives them a Pretext, not to engage further in any thing, since the *Sieur de Wit* always stands upon this, that the Guaranty

relates only to those who are attack'd. I have observ'd by his Discourse he is very well satisfy'd your Majesty will not be attack'd by the King of *Spain*, nor his Successors; so that you may see very plainly the States cannot give you any Security for the Treaties you shall make with them, but by the Conditions above specify'd; and in case of Refusal, your Majesty will be the more confirm'd in the Judgment you make.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
January 2, 1665.

Sunday last I gave the *Sieur Van Benningen* an Audience of two Hours, since which I have given him my Answer to what he represented to me, and charg'd *de Lionne* to write to you the Substance of it, and of what pass between 'em, that you may be inform'd of the whole: Whatever I shall resolve on, it very much imports me, that the States be not born down, tho' I had no Treaty with them, because the Power of *England* wou'd by that Means become too formidable at Sea. You must never by your Discourse take away their Hopes of Assistance from me, when Opportunity shall offer, and I am in a Condition to make my self considerable at Sea, which I incessantly apply my self to do; neither, for the same Reason, must you reproach the *Sieur de Wit* with the Orders the States have sent to their Ambassador at *Madrid*; that will only dishearten them, and oblige them perhaps to seek out other Alliances, thinking they have offended me: On the contrary, 'twill be convenient to encourage the *Sieur de Wit*, and endeavour to rid him of his Fears of sinking. I shall write earnestly to *England* to Morrow for an Accommodation; and my Ambassador shall speak in Terms quite different from what I told *Van Benningen*, touching the Motives and Occasion of this War.

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Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, January 2, 1665.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has Orders from the King his Master to demand of your Lordships, that you will be pleas'd to Order the Physician *d'Orcat*, who has a Reputation for curing Cancers, to repair forthwith to *Paris*, to undertake the Cure of the Queen, Mother to his Majesty, who 'tis fear'd is taken with that Distemper. He assures your Lordships, that the King his Master, having this Affair very much at Heart, will be very singularly grateful for the sending this Person, and the Speed that shall be made in it. Given at the *Hague* the second of *January*, 1665.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count D'Estrades : January 5, 1665.

THE Answer I gave Monsieur *Van Benningen*, by the King's Order, was in Substance this; That in the first Place his Majesty order'd me to tell him, he had as great an Affection for the Lords the States, as they themselves could desire, of which he wou'd give them effective and solid Proofs on all Occasions; that he was sorry to see them on the Point of being necessitated to carry on a burthensom War; that his Majesty knew very well, tho' he had no Treaty with them, 'twas for his Interests the States be not born down; and he apply'd himself to be in a Condition to render himself considerable to *England*, to be the more service-
able

able to them. That besides, he is the most Religious Prince in the World, in performing what he promises by his Treaties or otherwise; but that the States present Demand of his Majesty, being of greater weight than might be imagin'd, since 'tis to bring a War on this Crown on their Account, he ought above all things to examine seriously the Foundation of the said Demand.

That this is the more just, because the King of *England* declares to his Majesty and the Publick, he will demonstrate by evident Reasons, that the said States are the Aggressors. In which case, if 'twas true, he knew well his Majesty wou'd not be oblig'd to do any thing by Vertue of the Treaty of 1662.

That besides this (tho' the States were ev'n undeniably attack'd) it shou'd be examin'd, whether this War being made for the Possession of *Guiney*, which is in *Africa*, his Majesty should be oblig'd to the Accassaries, having no obligation to the Principal.

That the Discussion of these two Points ought not only to precede any Rupture of this Crown, upon which, in a plain and clear case, it should always have four Months time to declare, but precede also the Concession of the 12000 Men, the Succours stipulated by the Treaty, since the Demand cannot be made of his Majesty in either of the two before-mention'd Cases.

That in the mean time his Majesty, as a true and good Friend and Ally, wou'd omit nothing that can depend on his good Offices and Interest with the King of *England*, to manage and procure a good Accommodation between the said King and the said States, and requires the said *Sieur Van Beuningen* (if he has Orders and Power so to do, or to get 'em if he has not) to tell him plainly on what Terms the said States can agree with the said King, as to the present and future State of the Affairs and Trade of *Guiney*; in which, the easier they are, and the more they comply, as to their Interest for the publick Peace, the more will be their Praise and Merit in all Christendom, and the more also will his said Majesty have means in a little time to manage this

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Accommodation, which he resolves to set about very efficaciously, and to be so earnest in it, that the King of England may see the Care his Majesty has taken of the Interests of the United Provinces, and the singular Affection he has for their State.

I said all that's above twice over, and so pressing, that the *Sieur Van Benningen*, with my Consent, took Pen in Hand, and the second time wrote down the Substance of it. He ask'd me if I wou'd not send you the same, I reply'd, it might be so. He wou'd have had you to have told the States, but I do not think it proper. 'Tis enough you know it, to talk answerably to it to the *Sieur de Wit*, and our greatest Confidants, 'till the King has come to a Resolution, his Majesty not having yet determin'd what to do, because 'tis true the Reasons are very strong on both sides.

Monsieur Van Benningen behav'd himself in the mean time like a wise Man, taking the Answer as very gracious, and for the Advantage of the Lords the States. However, I believe he saw 'twas a Knife with two Edges; being couch'd in Terms which do not discover whether the King intends to perform the Treaty of 1661, or not.

He desir'd me mightily to write in the King's Name to *Sweden* and *Denmark*, to let 'em know the good Dispositions he presupposes the King has to support them, to begin to engage those two Powers in their Cause by his Majesty's Example, and render the Negotiations of the *English* the more difficult: But I did not explain my self thereon, as he wou'd have had me, and particularly as to *Denmark*, for besides that as I have said, the King is not yet determin'd what to do, 'tis to be fear'd *Hannibal Sextor*, who is very much in the *English* Interest, wou'd abuse this Trust by sending Advices to *London*.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: January 8, 1665.

IF the King thinks it his Interest to keep in with these People, and resolves to perform the Treaty of 1662, he will have nothing more to manage with the Lords the States.

You have very much oblig'd me, in not charging me to tell the States what Monsieur *Van Benningen* wou'd have had me, and you saw very well what wou'd be the Consequences. Monsieur *de Wit* has press'd me mightily to present a Memorial to the States to inform them on the part of the King of this Conference; but I reply'd, that wou'd be useless, since I told him, you had written me, and he himself might give them an account of our Conversation. He did not seem pleas'd with this. I talk'd to him very obligingly on the part of the King as to his Esteem of his Person, and the Protection he would give 'em on all occasions for his Interests; as also of the good Intentions the King has for the Welfare and Advantage of the Lords the States. He answer'd all this with Compliments, but his true Sentiments of it are set forth in his Letter, to which I refer you.

The King's Proposal, to make an Accommodation with *England*, is very acceptable here; and if Monsieur *Van Benningen* is troublesome to you at *Paris*, the King may send him to *England*; every thing he writes hither is look'd upon as an Oracle. The *Sieur de Wit* having not a Friend in whom he trusts more Care shou'd be taken whom he sees; for if ill affected Persons shou'd tell him News of things contrary to the King's Interests, and he writes to his Masters, 'twill be a hard matter to undeceive them.

From

From the Count D'Elstrades to the King :
January 8, 1665.

I Confess to your Majesty, I cannot conceal my Concern to see you press'd so to enter into a Rupture pursuant to the Treaty. This made me resolve to visit Monsieur de Wu, and to discourse him on the present State of Affairs; nay, to advance, as from my self, that they were very ready to press your Majesty to a Rupture, they themselves being powerfully arm'd; yet they knew your Majesty had but sixteen Men of War fit to put to Sea, and must besides have several Fleets to make head against the *English*, and defend your Subjects against Privateers and other Ships of War; I cou'd not help telling him 'twou'd be but fair in the Lords the States to desire nothing more of your Majesty than to remain Neuter; that they might be satisfy'd your Majesty's Affection for them was greater than for the *English*, tho' the Appearance was equal, that they might Trade in *French* Bottoms, and have Advantages they wou'd not have if your Majesty broke with *England*.

He did not disapprove of my Thought, and told me he wou'd communicate it to the States; but in order to it, your Majesty must privately allow them a Subsidy for the 12000 Men in four Months, which no Body should know of, and that it ought to be known the States Resolutions were lately kept very secret, as it appear'd by the Commission given *de Ruyter*, which they now declare publicly; I ask'd him if he cou'd not get the States to come to such a Resolution before the Departure of the Courier, and if they wou'd not send Monsieur *Van Beuningen* Orders about it. He promis'd he wou'd do it if there was time, but that 'twas an Affair which requir'd to be well examin'd. In the mean time I see by the Copy of his Letter what he has done.

If your Majesty approves hereof, the King of *England* will methinks be very much oblig'd to your Majesty for remaining Neuter, notwithstanding the Obligation of the Treaty of 1662, and the States may make as if they were dissatisfy'd with it.

The four Months being expir'd, it may be agreed on with the States, not to break in consideration of some Assistance in Money. In time the Treaty for *Maestricht* may be propos'd, on account of the Sums to be Lent.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
January 2, 1665.

I Receiv'd yours; I like very well your Thoughts about *Maestricht*, for that wou'd be a good way (if there's any one good enough) to secure what the States shall promise in a new Treaty to me; but as they are not yet in such Straights as to hearken to such a thing, so I wou'd not also at present engage in a War, for the Advantage I may have by having *Maestricht*, tho' they shou'd join even that of joining with me in prosecuting my Right to *Flanders*; to which afterwards they wou'd keep no farther than they thought for their Interest. But in the course of their Difference with *England*, something may happen that may for my own Interest oblige me to assist them openly, to prevent others seizing the Empire of the Sea, and then one may with more probability of Success bring on a Negotiation for *Maestricht*, and that of a new Treaty about the *Netherlands*.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
January 15, 1665.

Your Majesty says, with great Reason, the States must be in greater streights than they are now, before the Negotiation for *Maestricht* be brought on, and that of a new Treaty. You will have the better Terms the more they are involv'd in Troubles, for nothing is to be expected from their Friendship and Gratitude, it being certain, that Interest will with Merchants prevail over all other Obligations.

The Express came so late on account of the Ice, that I cou'd not see Monsieur de Wit so tell him what your Majesty does me the Honour to write me, that the King of England will not declare War, but only grant Reprieve to his Subjects, till the United-Provinces have done 'em Justice and himself also, for the Damages they have suffer'd by the two East-India Companies. I will to Morrow see him, and know his Sentiments thereon.

I send your Majesty the Copy of all Monsieur *Van Buren*, and Monsieur *Van Gort*, Ambassador in England, have written him.

The 4000 Foot the Emperor sends into the Netherlands, are arriv'd at *Weers*, and are to be Quarter'd in *Brabant*. The States of *Holland* began their Session Yesterday. Monsieur *Friquet*, and *Richard*, Secretary to the Spanish Embassy, are very Assiduous in their Visits to the Deputies of the Cities; they talk as they did before, and as I wrote to your Majesty last Post, saying, in a little time great Succours of old Spanish Troops will arrive.

The Frost has hinder'd *Dan Esteven de Gamatre's* being here. I'm told a Cousier is sent to hasten his coming by Land, the Boats not going.

As to the Resignation of *Cabo Corso*, and the Ship *Christina*, 'tis agreed at 135000 Crowns. I had two Conferences with Monsieur de Wit about it, at the Re-

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quest of the *Swedish* Resident, to bring him up to that Sum, for the *West-India* Company wou'd not exceed 100000 Crowns; your Majesty's Mediation has been worth 35000 Crowns on this occasion.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
January 15, 1665.

Since I wrote my other Letter, a Copy of the Letter Monsieur *de Wit* writes Monsieur *Van Beuningen* was brought me. Your Majesty will by his see what the States Sentiments are. I'm inform'd by all my Friends, that your Majesty is to be press'd to declare your self according to the Treaty. The People are Exasperated, and give whatever is ask'd of 'em for this War. If 'twas possible for your Majesty to remain Neuter, with the Consent of both Parties, by making up the Matter with the States for some Subsidies, which a Pretext might be found out for, your Majesty wou'd obtain a great Advantage for all your Subjects, and for Commerce: The Obligation of the Treaty wou'd be answer'd, since it often happens that the Conditions are alter'd with the Consent of both Parties.

I'm also of Opinion, that the Fear the King of *England* is in of your Majesty's joining with the States, wou'd make him readily consent to your remaining Neuter, and he may ev'n be made to comprehend that he is oblig'd to your Majesty for doing so. This is a War which warms the Assembly, and all of 'em are satisfy'd, if your Majesty does not perform the Treaty, they must seek out for some other Alliance; and they proceed so fast in these Matters, that ev'n with the Assistance of the contrary Factions, one cannot stop them.

The only way I can think of ('till your Majesty has determin'd what to do) is for Monsieur *Van Beuningen* to write hither, there are still great hopes of your executing

cutting the Treaty. For all he writes is look'd on here as Oracles.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: January 16, 1665.*

Monsieur *Van Benningen* was with me this Morning, but said nothing like it to me, 'tho' by the Letter Monsieur *de Wit* wrote him, it appears he has Orders thereon. He talk'd to me only of his Voyage to *England*, in case the King thought it might be useful, and he had full Power to make an Accommodation. He gave me a Replication to my Answer, but it being very long, I can't send you a Copy 'till next Post. In the mean time Monsieur *de Wit* can let you see it, for I doubt not he sends it to him this day.

In the heat of Discourse two things escap'd me, which made his Colour come and go; one, that I knew some of the Chiefs of their State had often rally'd this Treaty, wherein we were bubbled, and they had acted the cunning part, by binding our King, without being bound themselves in any thing to him; because we had weakly consented to leave one side entirely open to attack us, which is that of our last Treaty with the Duke of *Lorraine*, and that all the Powers who may design to attack us, need only make use of that Pretext, which was as good as any other, and might be sure the States wou'd not stir. He seem'd surpriz'd at this Discourse, and cou'd not forbear saying, 'twas but just such a Suspicion shou'd be remov'd from the King, and that the States shou'd guarant all things to his Majesty.

The other, that the Lords the States, in pressing the King to a Declaration now, when 'twou'd be of no Service to them, did not consider 'twou'd presently throw *England* into a close Alliance with *Spain*; and that it may happen that his Majesty, after having defended the States, might the next day see them in the same League

against him, so that it might be that the said States, without reaping any Benefit by it, would oblige the King to ruin all his Interests for their sakes. He would have made me believe the States would never come to such a Resolution no more than in the Year 1659, when the *Low-Countries* were given over for lost: I reply'd, their Proceedings since that, and even Monsieur de Wit's late Negotiation with you, had plainly shewn the contrary, and all their real Sentiments; he answer'd, he never was for that Negotiation, and said at first, 'twas only an Amusement on both sides to discover the Intentions of each, adding, Securities ought to be sought for. I reply'd, I knew not where sufficient could be found, their People were so infatuated with the Opinion that there must always be a Barrier between *France* and the State; and so we parted. But I believe the Physick I have given him will have its Operation; my End was to let him know such Overtures might be made, as would easily overcome abundance of Obstacles.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: January 22, 1665.

YOUR Letter of the 16th of this Month was deliver'd to me last Night. Monsieur Van Bevernigen has written nothing to the States, nor Monsieur de Wit, of the two Things you told him, which certainly put some Thoughts into his Head, and cannot but have a good Effect in time; his Letter to Monsieur de Wit says, you told him, the King had chang'd his Ambassador to press the King of *England* to accept of the Mediation, and hearken to an Accommodation, and if he did not do it, his Majesty will be oblig'd to observe the Treaty he has made with the States; to which no Answer was yet come, and that oblig'd him to suspend the Orders he had to discourse of a

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Neutrality, by his Majesty's paying in Money the Mens Pay he was to furnish by the Treaty, without letting it appear; he says, he also thought 'twas not for him to make the Proposal, but rather the King's Ministers, because 'twas for his and his Peoples Convenience.

He gives an account of what you told him touching his Power to negotiate in *England*, and his going thither himself, if the King thought fit; and afterwards says, that tho' the Ministers told him the King was not treating for *Tangier*, he knew from a good hand, that a great Carriage of Money under the Guard of 100 Horse was sent toward *Havre de Grace*, that they lay at *Pontoise*, and perhaps was only to be sent to *England* to purchase *Tangier*, which Money might serve to carry on the War against them, in case it was true; he closes by saying the King's Intentions cannot be guess'd at, the greatest appearances are that he'll keep the Treaty, but the Effects are slow. He says also, the King has written to *Sweden* in favour of the States. These are the whole Contents of this Letter. The Answer Monsieur *de Wit* makes him, agrees with that by the last Post, and approves all he has done, but desires him to omit nothing to discover the Truth of that Money's being design'd for *England*.

Monsieur *de Wit* is so taken up with the Assembly, that he has been but a Moment with me, and only said, we must stay a Post to have the King of *England*'s Answer; after which, his Majesty's Sentiments may be discover'd. He confirm'd all I have taken Notice of above of Monsieur *Van Beuningen*'s Letter, of which I had a Copy as soon as 'twas decipher'd.

From the King to the Count D'Estades :
January 23, 1665.

I Am to answer yours of the 8th and 15th of this Month; you acted like a wise Minister when you thought of disposing the States to desire for their own Interest that I should remain Neuter; and in truth, there are so many Reasons to oblige 'em to do it, that I don't wonder Monsieur *de Wit* comprehended them at first, and promis'd to endeavour to bring the States to it. In the mean time, tho' this happen'd in the beginning of the Month, the Sieur *Van Benningen* has not yet said a Word of it, nor any thing like it; on the contrary, he sollicitates me to declare more earnestly than ever. The last Answer *Lionne* gave him, by my Order, to his Instances was, That my Lord *Hollis* had deliver'd me two Days ago a long Writing from the King his Master; in which he pretends to prove plainly the States are the Aggressors, as well in *Europe* as *Africa*, and that I am now inquiring into the Foundation of the said Writing; but in the mean while, lose no time to bring things at *London* to an Accommodation, of which I have some hopes; and I do this pursuant to the Treaty of 1662, which imports, that for four Months I make use of my good Offices to accommodate the Differences that have occasion'd a Rupture between the States and Princes; tho' according to the Pretences of the *English*, those four Months are not yet begun, because they say there's no Rupture, only Reprizals granted for Damages receiv'd.

To return now to what the Sieur *de Wit* told you, concerning your Proposals of my Neutrality, that he did not disapprove of your Thought, and would communicate it to the States; but I must to that End give privately the Mony to pay 12000 Men for four Months, and no Body should know it. You may observe, this is not to approve, as he said, of your Proposition; on the contrary,

contrary, I should begin by that to execute the Treaty, since he did not explain himself, whether after the Expiration of the four Months, the States would be satisfy'd, instead of a Rupture, with my continuing to pay them the same Subsidy, for they may then perhaps require harder Conditions of me to disengage me; wherefore while we wait for this fuller Explanation, 'twill be best for me to stand off, and keep my self to general Terms, that the true Aggressor must be enquir'd into, and whether a War made evidently for *Guiney*, can oblige me to the Execution of the Treaty in *Europe*. Besides, if he should positively consent to make the Declaration, that they would always be satisfy'd with the Subsidy for 12000 Men; I have not yet resolv'd to comply with it, it being worth Consideration; that by this Conduct I shall equally disoblige both Sides. Nevertheless, 'twill be convenient that, if possible, you so order things as that the *Dutch* shall make me this positive Offer.

I have some Suspicion that he who gave you the *Sieur de Wit's* Letter to *Van Benningen*, did it in concert with the said *de Wit*; and if you think of it again, you will meet with some things that may give grounds for such a Thought; 'twill be hard, if hereafter, this Man continuing to give you the like Copies of Letters written from one to the other, you do not perceive whether or no 'tis done with the said *de Wit's* Knowledge.

From the Count D'Estades to the King :
January 29, 1665.

I Shall pursue your Majesty's Intentions with respect to the present State of Affairs, as you order me by the two Dispatches you did me the Honour to write me of the 23d of this Month. The *Sieur Van Benningen* has written the *Sieur de Wit* this Post, that Care must

be taken not to depart from the Treaty by any Proposal, but to accommodate themselves as much as may be to the Propositions your Majesty might make for your Convenience. The *Sieur Van Beuningen's* Advice has been approv'd of by the States, and the same Man having given me the Copy of his Letter, which I send herewith, your Majesty will see if all that pass between *Monfieur de Lionne* and him is conformable to Truth. I can make no Judgment yet, whether your Majesty's Suspicion of this Man who gives me Copies of Letters be well grounded. In the first there are some things which would make me believe so, if they had not been said in the Assembly by the same *de Wit*, concerning the States Answer to *Van Beuningen*, which shews that since the States Letter was express in such Terms, 'twas useless to put his into my Hands, because he knows very well I have Friends in the Assembly who tell me every thing that passes, and is resolv'd on there.

The Visit I receiv'd Yesterday from *Monfieur de Wit* was different from the rest; I found him full of *Van Beuningen's* Advice, and he told me twice that in the Conferences *Monfieur de Lionne* had with *Van Beuningen*, he had intermix'd some Discourse importing, that the States were so infatuated with an Opinion to have always a Barrier between *France* and them, that these false Notions would ruin them, by the Umbrages time might produce, and 'twas not difficult to understand by that a new Treaty was thought of. As to which, he would tell me plainly, as long as he had any Credit in the State it should never be consented to, and that they had better once for all see whether your Majesty would keep the Treaty of 1662, than embarrass themselves with new Proposals of a Treaty, which may not be kept better than the former; that he hop'd however your Majesty would reflect on the Engagement of your Royal Word, and that he had nothing to add to what *Van Beuningen* had said, and reply'd to *Monfieur de Lionne*, to
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confute what the *English* alledge on their Part to justify their Proceedings.

He added, the said *Van Benningen* had not yet been made acquainted with what your Majesty had written to *England* and *Sweden*, but only been told in general that you had written earnestly for their Interests.

That commonly after so solemn a Treaty as was that between *France* and this State, wherein the Union and Alliance ought to appear in every thing against the Aggressors, Memorials and Copies of Letters were given to each other, which was not done with respect to *France* and them.

I reply'd; I was certain of your Majesty's good Intentions for this State, and that 'twas but Prudence to examine the Memorials and Reasons of the *English* before any thing was determin'd: That your Majesty should consider your People, and not hurry 'em into a War before the Fact was examin'd, but act like the most Christian King in endeavouring to give both Parties Peace.

That there was no doubt to be made of your Majesty's Endeavours therein, only Answers must be waited for; which Answers may perhaps be more favourable than was expected.

That in great Affairs there were little Expedients which led to the same End; that I had propos'd to him your Majesty's Neutrality from my self, which he did not disapprove; tho' he had added an Addition of a Subsidy which I had said nothing of, and which alter'd my Proposal; that if he had made it by Monsieur *Van Benningen*, he would have known your Majesty's Sentiments, and shorten'd Affairs. But to stand upon who shall speak first, while they are threaten'd with a powerful War for the Satisfaction of several Neighbouring Princes who are offended, and govern a People who have Arms in their Hands ready for the first Disgust that may happen to them, or their first loss at Sea, did not seem to me to be worthy his Wisdom and Prudence, nor to say he would never hearken

to other Proposals of a Treaty, and would keep to that of 1662; since I must tell him as a Friend, that if the States should lose a Battel, or any great City, it would shake their Authority, as the loss of *Direcht* under Prince *Maurice* did, and then the said States, would be glad to alter the Treaty of 1662, and would be willing to engage themselves farther to oblige your Majesty more powerfully to protect them. We said no more at that time, and I thought fit to say so much to give him room to bethink himself, and wait another Post for my further explaining myself if he breaks the way.

In the mean time, the *Spanish* Cabals are very busie with the Deputies of the Cities, to perswade them your Majesty amuses them, and would not keep the Treaty, nay, that underhand you supply the *English* with Mony to carry on the War. Your Majesty will by your Prudence make a better Judgment than any one of the Consequence of these Discourses, and will be pleas'd to make your judicious Reflections thereon. I shall content myself with giving an account of what passes, and oppose all these Artifices by the most proper Ways to undeceive these People.

I add here, that the States having resolv'd to make no Overture to your Majesty, which departs from the Treaty of 1662, I do not think it proper to push the Proposition of the Neutrality farther.

Your Majesty, by the Orders given the *Sieur Van Beuningen*, will perceive whether 'tis proper to let any Proposal be made him by *Monfieur de Lionne*, he having Orders to hearken to and comply with what may be most convenient for your Majesty, provided it does not derogate from the Obligation of the Treaty. The Expression, that tho' a Subsidy for four Months should be agreed to, they may after the Expiration of them demand of your Majesty harder Conditions to disengage you from a Rupture, makes me have many serious Reflections on all your Majesty has very well observ'd in the same Dispatch.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
January 20, 1665.

SINCE I wrote my other Letter, I was told by my Friends 'twould be convenient for me to visit the chief Deputies of the Province of *Holland*, before they wrote to their Cities the little Hopes they had of your Majesty's performing the Treaty of 1662. Which they suppose from Monsieur *Van Benningen's* Letter of the 23d, and take the Delay he mentions for a Pretext and Evasion, and were the more ready to believe it thro' *Friget's* and *Richard's* Sollicitations, they being continually with them, to tell them your Majesty would only involve them in a War to abandon them, and profit by the Ruins of both Sides. That after so plain a Treaty as that between *France* and the States, your Majesty would have declar'd in their Favour, had your Design been fair, and that they had seen two Months ago what now happens, and they now gave 'em notice of.

I have seen 'em all, and discours'd them on the foot of the Reasons your Majesty lays down in your Dispatches. I observ'd, by their cold Reception of 'em, that they did not satisfy them, and that this Assembly will not be favourable to your Majesty, if things remain long in their present Uncertainty; and 'twill be a hard matter to bring their Minds into a good Disposition, if the *Spanish* Faction has time to draw 'em aside, as they are endeavouring.

Therefore your Majesty will permit me to say, with all the Respect I owe you, and the Zeal and Passion I have for your Service, 'tis absolutely necessary for you to determine what you will do; for if to keep the States in your Interests be most advantageous, there's no time to be lost, another such Post as this will lose the Affection of the principal Deputies of *Holland* and their

their Cities, which we may not in whole Years be able to recover.

Your Majesty will see the Regulations and Resolutions of the States on the present Affairs; 'tis propos'd to raise 12000 Men by the Company of Privateers, and a Fund of four Millions, Letters of Mark and Reprizals are distributed here, and the said Privateers talk of having sixty Ships fit to put to Sea in two Months time.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
January 30, 1665.

THE Letter you have written *de Lionne* of the 21st Instant, gives me occasion to tell you two things; one, that if the *Sieur de Wit* talks to you of the Money sent from hence to *Havre de Grace*, you may assure him on the Word of a Man of Honour, that it neither concerns the Purchase of *Tangier*, of which not a Word has been said, nor that Place in any manner whatsoever. This is a certain Truth, which you may assert on what I write you, and 'tis proper the said *de Wit* should be undeceiv'd in his Opinion, that this Money was for the Service of the *English* in the War; for 'tis not to go into their Country, nor any other where they can be the better for't. The other, that if *Van Benningen* waits to have the Proposal made here for the Neutrality, by paying down the Subsidy for the 12000 Men, he'll wait a long while, and the Reason is obvious; for if this Overture comes from me, 'twill be a formal Acknowledgment that the King of *England* is the Aggressor, and that I am oblig'd to the Accessories in a War made for *Guiney*, not being oblig'd to the Principal, which are two essential Points not agreed to by me. It may further happen that the States may take my Money, and yet at another time pretend I did not perform the Treaty, having refus'd a Rupture, and propos'd

propos'd Mediums to avoid it; wherefore the said States knowing the Matter is not very clear, that the present Case obliges me to a Rupture, should propose the said Medium to me, as a thing which will be very much for their Advantage, and more perhaps than a Rupture.

I must to this add, I have great Reason to complain of the ill keeping of Secrets with you, as to what passes between us, knowing very certainly that the *Spanish* Ministers at the *Hague*, and those of *England* at *London*, had not only knowledge of, but a Copy Word for Word of the Answer *Lionne*, by my Order, read to *Van Benningen*, and that they both know even the least Matters, and the very Words *Lionne* and the said *Van Benningen* said to each other in several Conferences, so that they may as well hereafter let the *Marquis de la Fuentes* and my Lord *Hollis* assist at them. How can one treat of any thing after this? Indeed, I have been oblig'd to Order him the first time he sees the said *Van Benningen*, to declare to him, I have order'd him to hear what he has to say, and give me an Account of it, but have forbidden him to reply one Word only, till I come to a final Resolution, and shall charge him to acquaint him with it.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: January 30, 1665.*

THE King of *England* has return'd no very good Answer to Monsieur *de Cominge's* Proposals and Instances for an Accommodation, and 'tis plain, he is not so much Master of his Actions as to do otherwise, after the Engagements he has enter'd into with his Parliament, or that he is wholly bent on a War. I have not yet thought it proper to tell Monsieur *Van Benningen* this bad News, because the Hopes I flatter him with of an Agreement, are serviceable to us to gain time before we give him a positive Answer.

From

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries : January 31, 1665.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, the obliging Care you took, as soon as you heard of the Indisposition of the Queen, our most honour'd Lady and Mother, to contribute to her Cure, by the Orders you sent to the Emperick, in the May-ry of *Boisleduc*, to part immediately, was the more agreeable to us, because it related to a Health which is infinitely dear to us. We have with great Satisfaction receiv'd this new Mark of your Affection, and take Occasion to testify it to you by this Letter, and sending back the said Emperick to the Place of his Abode, after having been very well satisfy'd of his Capacity, Care and good Advice. Upon which we pray God to have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Paris, January 31, 1665.*

Your good Friend, Allie and Confederate,

LOUIS,

Superfcrib'd,

To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries.

Memo-

*Memorial from Monsieur Van Beuningen,
presented to the Most Christian King:
February 1, 1665.*

THE underwritten Ambassador from the Lords
the States-General of the *United-Provinces* of
the *Low-Countries*, is oblig'd by the Orders he has
from my Lords his Masters, to represent to his Ma-
jesty, that they have certain News from *London* that
the *English* treat as Prisoners of War the Seamen they
took aboard the Merchant Ships belonging to the
Subjects of the said Provinces, and that the Name of
General Reprisals, which they apply to the War they
make, has not been newly invented by them with any
Intention to set Bounds to their Hostilities, but
only out of a piece of Subtily not easie to be com-
prehended, so to improve this Illusion as to remove
an Obstacle which might hinder the Confiscation of
the said Ships, the Advocates of the Admiralty of
London having asserted, that otherwise, and in case
the War be declar'd before the said Confiscation, they
can't be condemn'd in due Form as Enemies Goods,
the War not having been declar'd before. That but
for this Fraud, the *English* would not have kept to
Terms of Reprisals, which are not exercis'd by
Princes, but only granted by them to private Men
to a certain Sum, and after the Proofs requisite in
such Cases; that on the contrary, not content with
making a formal War with the said *Low-Countries*,
they now pretend to make the Neutral Nations feel
the Effects of it, having insinuated by their Minister
residing at the *Hanse-Towns*, as appears by the Copy
of the Memorial presented by one of them to the
Magistrates of *Bremen* hereunto annex'd, that they de-
clare all Ships the Inhabitants may hereafter buy in
the said *United-Provinces* to be good Prize, as also all
Goods and Merchandizes of the said Inhabitants, the
loaden

• loaden aboard their own Ships, in case they find with
 • them the least thing belonging to the Subjects of the
 • said Lords the States.

• And since by this 'tis evident the said *English*
 • omit no Hostilities of an open War, but exercise it
 • all Ways, nay with Excesses, which highly concern all
 • neutral People, and the want of a Declaration can no
 • more be alledg'd, unless to make it be look'd upon
 • as still more unjust, and then the fifth Article of
 • the Alliance between his Majesty and the said States
 • exists, without being liable to any further Dispute;
 • his Majesty is therefore most humbly desir'd on the
 • Part of the said Lords the States, no longer to defer
 • the Resolutions, his Justice and Royal Affection for
 • his Allies, and the Share he has in their Interests in
 • so just a Cause, where the Obligation of the Alli-
 • ance they have the Honour to have with his Ma-
 • jesty is so plain and indisputable, will dictate, and
 • thus to let their Lordships have provisionally the As-
 • sistance promis'd in the said Article. His Majesty
 • being able easily to perceive by what Spirit the Au-
 • thors of this War are acted, and what one may
 • reasonably apprehend from the Success of their
 • Arms; since having scarce taken 'em up in *Europe*,
 • they pretend already to deprive Neutral People of
 • the Right of buying Ships, which the Law of Nati-
 • ons permits them, and to set up Notions which will
 • draw after them Searches and Vexations at Sea, that
 • must cause a general Interruption in all Commerce.

• The said Underwritten would not doubt after this,
 • that there remains any Consideration to retard his
 • Majesty's said Resolutions, since 'tis even a long time
 • ago that they have expos'd in *England* whatever
 • might serve to charge the said Lords the States with
 • being the Aggressors; and there cannot be any Questi-
 • on made, but after the most faithful Representations
 • which have been given his Majesty by the said Lords
 • the States, and in their behalf, he will acknowledge
 • there's no Foundation in Justice for what the *En-*
 • *glish*

' *English* pretend to authorize their Arms, nor to make
' the said Lords the States pass for the Aggressors, nor
' to give the Hostilities begun in *Europe* the Name of
' the War of *Africa*; the Underwritten offering to
' prove more particularly, if need be, this Truth in all
' Points, wherein any shadow of Dispute may remain,
' if any such Remains of Dispute can be.

' But how indeed can it remain? Since the Lords
' the States from the very beginning of the Debate with
' *England*, have communicated to his Majesty, what-
' ever might help to assure him of the Justice of their
' Proceedings, and the Sincerity of their Intentions for
' the Preservation of the Peace, and his Majesty has
' never dropt one single Word to shew he was in the
' least dissatisfy'd with their Actions.

' Besides this, whatever Cases have happen'd since
' the Conclusion of the last Treaty, between the King
' of *England* and the said Lords the States, which the
' *English* have made use of to ground their Complaints
' on, have been particulariz'd, and the Truth with
' respect to the States laid down to his Majesty, and
' deliver'd in Writing by the said Underwritten, the
' 29th of *December* past, and there is nothing in all that
' in the Conduct of the said Lords the States can shew
' any thing but Moderation and Justice, and a parti-
' cular Care to give the *English* no just Grounds of
' Complaint; which Things being very Evident, as
' also that the Cases hapning before the Conclusion of
' the last Treaty, cannot in any wise serve in Justifi-
' cation of the *English* Arms, according to the Con-
' tent of the said Treaty, the said *English* not ha-
' ving in all these Transactions complain'd of any of
' these Cases, and having demanded no Reparation, a
' thing which ought however to have preceded the
' way of Arms, it ought to pass for as Plain and Evi-
' dent, that those who first attack'd the Places, Ports,
' and Ships of the Subjects of the said Lords the States,
' are the true Aggressors.

' For as to sending Vice-Admiral *de Ruyter* to the
 ' Coasts of *Africa*, that can admit of no Contest by
 ' the News of what he has done in Execution of his Or-
 ' ders, which were such that the great Patience of the
 ' Lords the States towards the *English* is rather to be
 ' admir'd at, than they are to be accus'd of any Excefs
 ' on their Account; and so far is the fourteenth Article
 ' of the said Treaty between *England* and the said Lords
 ' the States, from depriving them of this lawful and
 ' necessary Defence to recover their Forts, Ships and
 ' Goods out of the Hands of those who had usurp'd
 ' them, that on the contrary it leaves them the free
 ' Use of it in very express Terms, saying, the Offen-
 ' ders shall be punish'd, and other Words which
 ' shew, that the Punishment in the aforesaid Case
 ' might be made by the said Lords the States, and that
 ' they were not oblig'd to leave these Usurpers in
 ' their Forts, and to sollicite for Justice in *England* a
 ' whole Year together.

' And since every thing his Majesty laid down in
 ' his first Answer to the said Propositions to be more
 ' narrowly examin'd, is by clearing up these Points en-
 ' tirely remov'd, the said Lords the States would be
 ' in the wrong to apprehend any further Delays in the
 ' Expectation they are at present, to enjoy at last the
 ' Accomplishment of his Majesty's Royal Word, which
 ' seems so clearly engag'd on this Occasion. *Febru-*
ary 1, 1665.

Van Benningen.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:

February 5, 1665.

THE Post came so late, that I could not answer the two Dispatches your Majesty did me the honour to write me of the 30th past, Monsieur de Wit is so taken up in the Deliberations of the Assembly, that he is no more Visible. His Interest appears in that he has got the doubling of the ordinary Impositions, and the levying the two hundredth Penny past and agreed to by all the Cities. The whole comes to twenty five Millions; and is rais'd without any Difficulty, the Cities themselves offering to advance it; what is most considerable is the Consent of *Amsterdam* to forbid all Trade for a Year, even the Herring and Wrale-Fisheries, by which the States will have 12000 Seamen, who were employ'd in the said Commerce; never were more Union and Zeal than are in all the Provinces for this new War, 'twill be seen in time what Events 'twill produce: In the mean while, as I ought to give your Majesty an Account of the present State of Affairs, so I am to advise you, that after the Reading of Monsieur *Van Beuningen's* Dispatch of the 30th to the Lords the States-General, there's no Question made but the Delays us'd in Examining who is the Aggressor, is an Indication that your Majesty will not keep the Treaty, but would involve them in a War to make an Advantage of their Ruin; thus they talk in the Assembly, and in all Companies in the *Hague*.

A Friend of mine, and one who was sorry to find all their Opinions prepossess'd, that your Majesty would not Execute the Treaty, told me for a certainty, that Orders were given Monsieur *Van Beuningen* to demand your Majesty's final Answer, and if 'tis as doubtful as the Rest to return, and leave the Negotiation to Monsieur *Boreel*.

The Lords the States have appointed two Ambassadors Extraordinary for *Sweden* and *Denmark*, who are

to depart in a few Days to know also the Resolution of those Crowns. Your Majesty not being come to any as to the Party you are to take has a great deal of Reason not to mention the Neutrality first, and the last Letters from Monsieur *Van Beuningen* giving the Lords the States to understand, that by making this Proposal they gave up a Treaty every way advantageous to them, and they joining in with him, I do not think that Proposal can be driven any farther.

Your Majesty knows your Interests and your Affairs better than any body, I talk to you only from what I see here, that I may at no time be blam'd; if the Treaty of 1662 be not executed, every thing that has been said for this two Months past by the *Spanish* Faction will be believ'd, the Delays to examine who is the Aggressor will be taken for an Amusement, which they say is more prejudicial to them, than the not keeping the Treaty, and as they will certainly come immediately to Resolutions, which will not be agreeable to your Majesty, for I find all things tend that way, so I thought it my Duty to advise you of it, that you may take your Measures accordingly as to your final Determination.

If the Lords the States resolve on any thing which divides them from your Majesty, there are two Things to be desir'd; one, that your Majesty would treat with the Elector of *Brandenburgh* for the Dutchy of *Cleves* and County of *Meurs*, as he did with the late Prince of *Orange* ten Days before his Death, by means of *Madam* the Princess Dowager of *Orange*, the Conditions of which Treaty were, that the Prince should give him the County of *Meurs*, a Sovereignty holden of the Empire worth 4000 Livres Rent, and 3000000 of Livres in ready Mony, and 6000000 Livres to *Madam* the Princess, his Mother, for the Care she took to dispose the Elector to it. The Project of this Treaty was found by the States in the Prince's strong Box after his Death.

The other, the first miscarrying, would be to treat with the Duke of *Newburgh* for the Dutchy of *Juliers*; having either of these Countries, Troops might be there lodg'd very commodiously with Alliances with the Electors of *Cologne*, the Elector of *Brandenburgh* and Duke of *Newburgh*, and your Majesty would soon have a considerable Army on Foot, without raising any Forces, but in the Dominions of those three Provinces, to which being join'd an old Body of *French*, which your Majesty may always keep there, I can assure you the States would do whatever you would have them, and not dare to side with the *Spaniards* in defence of *Flanders*, if you had an Army posted in one of those Places.

Maastricht would have the same Effect, but as their Minds are now subject to ill Impressions, there's no likelihood that 'twill be hearken'd to.

'Tis not an easie Matter for the States to keep any thing Secret, and 'twas not my Man that gave Advice of what pass'd at the Conferences between *Monsieur de Lionne* and *Monsieur Van Bottingen*, two Days after the Reception of the States Generals Letters they become publick, because Copies are given to each Deputy to send them to their Provinces, thus they pass through the Hands of seven, and each has his Friends to whom he gives a Copy of every thing that's done.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: February 6, 1665.*

I Have only time now to say but one word to you, being over-whelm'd with Affairs. I receiv'd your Dispatch of the 29th. You answer'd *Monsieur de Wis* admirably well, when he talk'd to you so boldly, and told you 'twas better for 'em to know once for all, whether the King would keep the Treaty or not, &c.

Monfieur *Van Benningen* was with me this Morning, and preft me according to Custom. I told him, the King expected Monsieur *Ruvigny* to Night or to Morrow, on whose arrival 'twould be known whether one might hope for an Accommodation or not, after which I thought he would come to a Resolution, and in the mean time he might depend upon it, our Intentions were good; which is true.

He afterwards visited Monsieur *de Turenne*, which I knew of, the latter talk'd to him very notably, telling abundance of things, which can never come out of my Mouth, because I speak always on the Part of the King, and a third Man may give advice; the substance was, they did not carry themselves well to preft the King so to a Declaration, because there were in Effect a hundred good Reasons, why the King might pretend the Case of the Guaranty not to be that which now has happen'd, and that they ought to be satisfy'd with knowing his Majesty would not let them be born down, thinking 'twas very much for his Interest to prevent it. That on this Foundation they could not perish, but may reap great Advantages, and other such like things. Monsieur *de Turenne* believes he has convinc'd the said *Van Benningen*, and that he may this Post write in Terms very different from the Rest; you will soon perceive it where you are.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
February 12, 1665.

THE States of *Holland* adjourn'd the seventh of this Month to the 20th, when they are to sit again: I have little to write your Majesty this Post; I shall only give you an Account of a Visit Monsieur *de Wit* has made me, which past with less Haughtiness than the last, he telling me they must have Patience, tho'

tho' your Majesty's delaying to declare, pursuant to the Treaty of 1662, was very prejudicial to them.

He communicated to me the Letter Monsieur *Van Beuningen* had written him, which shews he had seen Monsieur *de Lionne*, and had not yet got any certain Answer about the Succours for the first four Months, that he only said your Majesty expected Monsieur *Ruvigny*, and would afterwards resolve what to do, that in the mean while he could assure him, your Majesty's Intentions were very good and sincere for the Interests of the States; all in general Terms, so that he could not make any positive Judgment of what would happen.

He writes further of his Conference with Monsieur *de Turenne*, the substance of which is, that your Majesty would not let the States perish, that you had written earnestly to the Northern Crowns to engage on their Side, and might, if you had pleas'd, have found out Pretexs enough to exempt you from the Treaty of 1662, it not being plain who is the Aggressor, the *English*, or the States, if your Intention was not good. Upon which he reply'd, there was no doubt to be made, by every thing he had produc'd, but the *English* are the Aggressors, and therefore it could not be that Pretext that could retard the Effect of the Treaty, but rather some secret Cause which time would discover; that he had still hopes of your Majesty's good Intentions, and the Effects of your kind Intercessions with the Northern Crowns.

To all which I answer'd, that since Monsieur *de Lionne*, who spoke on the Part of your Majesty, assures the Lords the States of your good Intentions; they ought to be easie, and rely upon your Majesty as their best Friend.

But that I was oblig'd to give him notice, I was apprehensive the States Conduct hereafter would not be agreeable to your Majesty, unless they thought of necessary Remedies to prevent the betraying of Secrets.

That your Majesty complain'd they kept nothing Secret; that they had Copies in *England* and *Spain* of the Letters Monsieur *Van Bunningen* wrote the Lords the States, of every thing which pass'd in the Conferences he had with Monsieur *de Lionne*. That if all Affairs must be made publick, Treaties with them must be renounc'd, there being none the Execution of which does not require Caution and Secrecy.

And on that I propos'd to him, what I agreed with the Prince of *Orange* in 1638, when the late King was to attack *St. Omer*, and the Prince *Antwerp*; I agreed with him to make the Treaty with the Lords the States without comprizing the Article about the Places in it, which Treaty should be sent as usual to the Provinces, and seven Commissioners Dependantes on the Prince be appointed to treat with me, and make a secret Article wherein the Places should be nam'd, which way I continu'd every Year 'till the King's Death, having for thirteen Years together made all the Campaign Treaties, and the States General knew nothing what Place was to be attack'd; that I thought we should do so now, and seven Commissioners be appointed for secret Affairs, with power to come to Resolutions in things without their passing thro' the Hands of the States; he allow'd 'twas the safest way, promising to propose it as soon as the Assembly of *Holland* met, and if he could bring that Province to consent to it, he doubted not of getting the Consent of the other Provinces.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, February 12, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, having receiv'd Complaints from Charles Lammell, and Phillip Mercer, Masters of two French Ships, call'd the *Hope* and the *St. Valery*, that they are hindred at *Rotterdam* in their Return to France, thinks he ought to present them to your Lordships, that you may be pleas'd to give Orders to the College of Admiralty in that City, to let them sail without any hinderance; and since, besides the great loss to the Merchants, very sad Inconveniences may happen if other Ships should be thus stop'd, the said Ambassador Extraordinary entreats your Lordships, not only to grant Licence to the said two Ships to sail, but to all French Ships which may thro' any Misunderstanding be molested for the future, and that the Resolution that shall be taken on this present Memorial, may serve for all French Ships which are under the same Difficulty; which the said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes from your Lordships Justice and Equity, and that you will order all Obstacles to be remov'd without Delay. Given at the *Hague*, February 12, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
February 13, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 5th of this Month, wherein I see the ill and false Judgements the *United-Provinces* begin to make of my Sentiments for the Welfare of their State. I don't trouble my self much about it, because the Sequel will shew they are mistaken. I have, however, Occasion to observe these People are very sollicitous for their Interests, and think little of others, in pressing a Declaration which not only can do them now no Service, but to flatter their Passion against *England*, and may be disadvantageous to them on several Accounts. 'Twould be very easie for me, if I intended it, to answer 'em in the negative, and prove by very pertinent Reasons unless they are propoest to the contrary, at least to all disinterested Persons, that Ours is not the Case of the Treaty of 1662; but I would not come to that, which perhaps their present Proceedings and their Views for the future deserve, because if I had no Treaty with them, 'tis not for my Interest that they should sink in the War, and I have resolv'd to act according to their Interests, but not according to their Caprice. Moreover, if in this little Interval they take any Resolution that may displease me, as you apprehend, I don't know but 'tis what would be most convenient for me. For I can next Day conclude with *England* on very advantageous Offers which she makes me, and can't do it with Honour as long as the States take no steps against my Interests, and accept of no other Protection but mine. *Ruvigny* arriv'd Yesterday from *London*, and on the Report he has made me of the State of that Court, and the various Opinions of those who make any Figure there, I have resolv'd to send in a few Days an Illustrious Extraordinary Embassie compos'd of three Persons, of whom a Prince or some Officer of my Crown shall

shall be the Chief, the *Sieur de Cominges* second, and the third a Man of Business and Experience. The end I promise to my self in it is, by this publick Demonstration, which ought otherwise to be very grateful to the *United-Provinces*, to press the Accommodation the more earnestly, and labour towards it on the spot without discontinuance; the *Sieur Van Beuningen* being himself convinc'd by the last Advices he receiv'd from *London*, that the King of *Great Britain* and the greatest part of his Ministers are inwardly for a Peace, tho' they do not yet appear to be so on account of the Court's engagement with the Parliament.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : February 13, 1665.*

Monsieur *Van Beuningen* writ me a Billet this Morning, to let me know he understood Monsieur *de Ruigny* had Yesterday given the King an Account of every thing, and to demand whether he might not see me to know his Majesty's Resolution. I reply'd, the *Sieur de Ruigny* had begun to inform his Majesty, and had not yet done; and that there must be besides some time allow'd to deliberate on the Matter. I did so, that you may be the first who publish'd his Majesty's Resolution to send a pompous Embassie to *England*, whose last Orders, I may tell you boldly, as between you and me, in case an Accommodation cannot be made, are very advantageous to the States; as to the Persons, I believe 'twill be Monsieur *de Metz*, and Monsieur *Courtin*, but I beg you not to say a Word of it to any one, for I can't tell whether Monsieur *de Metz* will be able to undertake the Voyage.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
February 19, 1665.

WHEN Monsieur *de Wit* came to visit me just after the Post came in, I acquainted him with your Majesty's Resolution, to send two Ambassadors into *England* to negotiate a Peace, and demonstrate your Affection for the States, which lets no Opportunity slip to procure the Quiet and Freedom of their Trade by a Peace.

He answer'd, he did not think this Extraordinary Embassie would be very useful, if 'twas not accompany'd with the Succours your Majesty was to give them for the first four Months.

That he could not help telling me the Lords the States had three Things very much at Heart.

The First, That your Majesty cannot be prevail'd with in all this time, to promise the Assistance you are oblig'd to give by the Treaty.

The Second, That their Ministers are never talk'd to freely nor sincerely, but with continual Evasions.

And the Third, That as to all the Recommendations and good Offices their Masters had desir'd of your Majesty, as well for *England*, as the Northern Crowns; all that had been said was, favourable Letters were written, without saying what, or giving Copies of 'em; that this way of Proceeding with so much Reservation was no good Omen for them, at which he was sorry, being one of those who had contributed most to the close Union between *France* and this State.

That to let me see how far this Affair was examin'd by all the Provinces, he would tell me their Intention at first was that Succours should not be given during the four Months, and the Article was so couch'd by their Ambassadors; but your Majesty would not pass it in that manner, ordering it should be set forth
in

in the Form 'tis now, which makes it previous, and the Treaty must be begun by it, or else 'tis broken.

I reply'd, the same Things I have several times written your Majesty in my former Dispatches, adding. I thought they put an ill Construction on your Majesty's Care and Application to procure them Peace, and that to do an Act of an Enemy, at the same time you were endeavouring to bring hot Minds to a Temper, as was the King of England's against the State, would be to act contrary to it, and never Negotiation was known to succeed that was so carry'd on.

All I say to your Majesty is, these People think 'tis their Interest to have the Treaty executed, and will not depart from it. They have given Monsieur Van Benningen Orders conformable to what is abovemention'd.

Your Majesty may conclude, that do what you will, without giving them the Succours, 'twill not content them, and that they will in time do what you would not have them to promote their own Interests; I ought in Conscience to give your Majesty Notice of it, and I know it from very good Hands, if you have it not in your Power to make them keep their Word, they will infallibly leave you, being very well assur'd they have resolv'd to make use of the Delays and Evasions Monsieur Van Benningen has met with in France.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: February 25, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that the Ship call'd the *St. Giron* of Bourq, near Bourdeaux, Burthen about sixty Tons, Peter Bruel Master;

• ster; and another call'd the *Fortune of Peneff*, Bur-
 • then about fourscore Tons, *James Lobado* Master;
 • both *French*, loaden at *Amsterfams* two Months ago
 • with Herrings, Sugar and other Goods, and having then
 • obtain'd Licences from the Admiralty of the said
 • City to depart, have been ever since stop'd by the
 • Ice, and fearing that now pursuant to your Lord-
 • ships last Orders, the Admiralty of *Amsterdam* may
 • hinder their sailing, the Ambassador Extraordina-
 • ry prays your Lordships to give Directions to the
 • Admiralty of the said City, to let them make use of
 • the Licences they granted them, or give them both
 • new to depart notwithstanding the said Orders; and
 • he hopes your Lordships will make the less difficulty
 • to do it, for that they have effectively and entirely
 • paid those for their Merchandizes of whom they
 • bought them, a long time before the Orders to pro-
 • hibit Ships to depart were publish'd, and the greatest
 • part of their loading being Salt-fish, which will have
 • not vent out of *Leve*, that you will be pleas'd to ex-
 • pedite the aforesaid Directions forthwith, and with-
 • out Resumption, that their Merchandizes may not be
 • lost.

• The said Ambassador Extraordinary prays your
 • Lordships also to order the said College of Admiral-
 • ty, to permit seven or eight small Ships bought for
 • the use of the *India* Company in *France* to depart;
 • the said Ships being but eight or ten Tons each, and of
 • little Consequence, he hopes your Lordships will the
 • more readily allow them to sail, because they can be
 • of no great Service to your Fleet in the present Con-
 • juncture, there being a great quantity of others of
 • more Consideration and fitter for Service. Given at
 the *Hague*, *February 20, 1665*.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estades :
February 20, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Letter of the 12th, which does not require any other Answer, than to tell you I approve very much of the Expedient you propos'd to the *Sieur de Wit*, as to the Method to be observ'd for keeping what passes between me and the States secret, after the same manner you did formerly in the Campaign Treaties during the War, when the Consultations were to be kept from the States themselves for the more secrecy, and not the Names of the Places to be attack'd on both Sides communicated to them, and if the said *Sieur de Wit* can get them to come to such a Resolution next meeting, we shall reap several Advantages by it towards carrying on the Negotiation successfully for an Accommodation, the King of *England* remaining still in doubt and fear of what passes between us. All that's to be done is to make a good Choice of the seven Persons, who are to have Knowledge of every thing, that I may depend on their Fidelity and Silence, and for that Reason you ought in my Opinion to have the greatest share in their Election.

I order'd *Lionne* to write you last Week the Resolution I had taken to send an Illustrious Extraordinary Embassie to *England*, and the Motives that put me upon it. I am now to tell you who the Persons are I have chosen, my Uncle the Duke de *Fernenil*, the *Sieur de Cominges*, and the *Sieur Courtin*, Counsellor in my Council of State, and Master of Requests in my *Hôtel*, whose departure I shall hasten, that they may have time to negotiate a Peace before the Season comes for the two Fleets which are preparing to put to Sea. You may communicate this Resolution from me to the States-General, and I doubt not I shall satisfie them and all the World, by so notable and useful a Demonstration.

stration, what a value I have for them, and how dear their Interests are to me.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: February 20, 1665.*

Monsieur Boreel sent me some Days ago two Letters from the States to the King, one on the taking a *Dutch Ship* by an *English Frigate* in the Harbour, and under the Cannon of *Boulogne*, as the Letter says; the other to let his Majesty know they intend to Challenge their Ships, when or where-ever they find them, because they were taken or stop'd in the Ports of *England* before any Denunciation of War, praying his Majesty to warn his Subjects not to buy those Ships sold by the *English*, because the Inhabitants of the Provinces have a Right to what was taken from them by Force in time of Peace.

As to the first, I must tell you, that informing myself of the Fact by the *Marechal d'Assaut*; he told me, a *Dutch Ship* lying in the Harbour a-ground, an *English Frigate* taking advantage of the return of the Tide, fell upon the said Ship with such speed that she carry'd her off as it were in an Instant, before either the Cannon of *Boulogne*, or other Helps which were preparing to be sent her, could prevent it. Therefore 'tis not true, as the States have been told according to their Letter, that the *English Ship* chas'd the *Dutch* which shelter'd her self under the Cannon of *Boulogne*. But however the thing happen'd, the Difference is not great, and his Majesty will to Morrow write to Monsieur de Comminges, and order him to use pressing Instances with the King of *Great Britain* to restore that Prize, which you may in the mean time acquaint Monsieur de Wit with, or the States-General, as you think fit.

You may, if you please, tell him also touching the said States Letter, that his Majesty will consider of it.

He

He desires you will stop there without saying more, least we should condemn our selves, and not be able to assist the *French*, who already shall have bought the said Ship. But in effect, tho' there's no necessity of saying as much where you are, Advice of the Matter shall be sent to all our Ports, that our Merchants may engage no further in such like Purchases.

Monfieur *Van Benningen* gave me a Visit yesterday Morning, and declar'd to me; the Lords the States would be very glad, and think themselves mightily oblig'd to the King for resolving to send so splendid an Embassy into *England* on their Accounts; he prest me as much as ever for his Majesty's Declaration in their Favour, and the Execution of the Treaty, endeavouring to perswade me, that the sending of 40000 Crowns only for a Month's Subsidy, would forward the Accommodation more than the Embassy, because the two Northern Crowns would presently follow the Example: On the contrary, I endeavour'd to prove to him, that he prest the King to a thing which would be more prejudicial than advantageous to them, for that the King of *England* would have a Right to reject his Mediation as soon as he declar'd himself in that manner, and that for a Sum of no Importance to them, they would have us come to a Rupture, and in an Instant lose all the Hopes we might still conceive.

I forgot to tell you, I hinted to Monfieur *Van Benningen*, whether it might not be proper and useful for him to go to *England* with the Lords Ambassadors. The King of *England* having said, when this Voyage was mention'd to him, he might come, and should be heard; but he did not desire it should be said he sent for him; the said *Van Benningen* reply'd, before there was any Rupture his Masters had given him Power to go to *London* if the King thought fit, but that he must now wait for new Orders, and must write about it.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
February 26, 1665.

THE Courier is but just come, and 'tis so late I cannot 'till to morrow obey the Orders your Majesty sent me in your Letter of the 20th of this Month; in the mean time I am to acquaint you, that since the States of *Holland* came together, the Lords the States seem to act with more Vigour than they had done to carry on the War; they have resolv'd to raise 6600 Foot, and 800 Horse extraordinary, and put 4000 Men more aboard the Fleet; they say plainly, that since your Majesty does not send them the Assistance promis'd by the Treaty of 1662, they must endeavour to find out Means to maintain the War themselves, and that the *English* have gain'd enough in disposing your Majesty not to keep the Treaty, and shewing them they were mistaken.

This is now the common Discourse in the Assembly, and in the Cities, of which I thought it my Duty to give your Majesty Advice; you will by my last Dispatch have seen what was Monsieur de Wit's Sentiment, which is conformable, by what has appear'd to me since, to that of the Lords the States touching the Extraordinary Embassy you resolve to send to *England*. They don't shew any Joy on this Occasion, but look on this step with a great deal of Indifference. What is to be observ'd is the Reflections they now make on every thing *Downing* and the *Spanish* Faction told 'em three Months ago, they telling 'em they knew certainly your Majesty would not declare for them, but spin out Affairs with Excuses to involve them in a War, and afterwards make your Advantage of the Ruin of both Parties: This is so strongly imprinted on their Minds, that I don't see how they are to be undeceiv'd.

I shall to morrow acquaint the Lords the States with your Majesty's Resolution to send this Embassy Extraordinary to *England* on their Accounts; I hear by a good Hand, that there's privately an Accommodation treating of between the King of *England* and this State; they say nothing of it to me here, but Monsieur de Comminges may penetrate into the Matter better than I, because the Negotiation is carry'd on in *England*. Your Majesty may depend upon this, that all you do does not content the States, and that they are more disgusted than they seem to be, that you do not declare; I am assur'd, if they think of accommodating Matters with *England* without your Majesty's Participation, they may do it; *Downing* is more complying than he has been, and visits almost daily the Deputies of the Cities.

Your Majesty is better than any body acquainted with the State of your Affairs, and with what is most convenient for you. All I have to do is to give you a faithful Account of every thing that's said and done, that you may reflect on it according to your wonted Prudence.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: February 26, 1665.

YOU will see the State of Affairs by the King's Letter, I believe the Peoples Confidence in us is lost, and 'twill not be easie to regain it. The King may take his Measures accordingly. The States now think all was true, that the *Spanish* Faction and *Downing* said three Months ago; you see clearer than I, and will judge better, how far this may go; but you must expect nothing from these Men in their present Disposition, 'till they can strike their Seroak they will certainly dissemble. I'm afraid of their accommodating Matters with the *English*, in such case we shall

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have

have contented neither Party, and shall find it a hard matter to make any Progress in *Flanders*, when the Succession falls, or to settle Commerce; the Forces of these two States being in accord, they will prevent our Success.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: February 26, 1665.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that the Ship call'd the *Marchal Phébus*, burthen about fourscore and ten Tons, *Helye-Suyrre de Semozade* Master, coming from the River of *Bordeaux* laden with Wine, and arriving at *Amsterdam* the first of *January* last, could not till now return to *France*, because of the continual Ice which hinder'd her, and fearing now that the Colledge of Admiralty of the said City may make some scruple to let her depart, on account of your Lordships Edicts, and the Exportation of some Bales of Paper, and other Merchandizes she is about loading to *France*, the said Ambassador Extraordinary prays your Lordships, that you'll be pleas'd to permit the Master of the said Ship to load the Goods he shall have bought and paid for, and to return to *France* now the Ice is broken; and to this Effect to order the Admiralty of the said City, in so wise to molest him either in his Loading or Departure. Given at the *Hague* the 26th. of *February*. 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, February 27, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, having from time to time acquainted your Lordships, that the King his Master's Intentions, for whatever regards your Interest and Advantage, cannot be better nor more sincere, now acquits himself with Joy of the Order he has receiv'd from his Majesty to confirm this Truth to you again, by informing you, as he does, of the Resolution his Majesty has taken to send in a very little time a splendid Embassy Extraordinary to *England*, to endeavour (with more Efficacy than his Mediation formerly offer'd had) to bring the King of *Great Britain* to an Accommodation, and a Pacification of all Differences which are the Occasion of the War he is now about to enter upon, and prevent it. Your Lordships may observe the Importance of this Embassy, by the Choice of the Persons who are to compose it, since a Prince, Monsieur the Duke de *Vernueil*, his Majesty's Uncle, is to be Chief, and Monsieur de *Cominges* Ambassador in *England*, and Monsieur *Courtin* the King's Counsellor in his Council of State, and Master of Requests in Ordinary in his *Hôtel*, are appointed Ambassadors in Extraordinary with him, by which you may conjecture what you are to expect not only from the Splendor of this Embassy, but also from his Majesty's serious Care and Application in it. The said Ambassador Extraordinary has also Orders to assure your Lordships, that as soon as his Majesty had notice of the taking a *Dutch Ship* in sight of *Boulogne* by an *English Frigate*, which

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which carry'd her off before the Succour could come which was preparing to be sent her, he charg'd his Ambassador in *England* to use pressing Instances with the King to restore this Prize; and as to another Letter, in which your Lordships declare you will reclaim and challenge their Ships taken and sold in *England* where-ever they shall be found, his Majesty will reflect upon it as the Matter requires; to which the said Ambassador Extraordinary adds, he hopes God will bless his Majesty's Labours for your Lordships Interests, and that you will have cause to be satisfy'd with their good Success. Given at the *Hague* the twenty seventh Day of February, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: February 27, 1665.*

IT were to be wish'd you could this Time get of your Correspondent, the Copy of the Letter Monsieur *Van Beuninghen* writes by this Post to Monsieur *de Wit*; for I had this Morning a very warm Conference with him, wherein, to my thinking, I had the better of it in every thing; and so silenc'd him that he had not a Word to reply; when he went away he thank'd me, for whatever I had said to him with openness of Heart, declaring he was much better pleas'd with hearing Truths, than when nothing was said to him, but we conceal'd our Sentiments from him. However I'm afraid I have brought a Business on your Hand, where you are, which you must get rid of the best you can; for to have the better Opportunity to trap him, I told him that Monsieur *de Wit* having express'd himself as if he did not value the Extraordinary Embassy to *England* without the Succours, 'twas very happy you had written
of

Of it to no body but me, for if the King had known of this Proceeding he would undoubtedly have alter'd his Resolution, and bid Monsieur de Verneuil not to make any Preparations for it.

I confess, that contrary to my Custom, my Choler was a little stir'd, and that I talk'd to him perhaps with too much heat; but I don't repent of it, for Monsieur Van Behningen thought his Demands and Complaints were so just and so convincing, that we had not a Word to reply.

Among other Things, I ask'd him one Question, which very much Embarrass'd him, and that was What the Lords the States had hitherto done against *England*, that they had not so much as order'd Reprizals, but only given out Commissions to a few Privateers: I added afterwards, laying aside all other Considerations of the first Aggression, or the War of *Guiney*, how could Messieurs the States think the King was under any Obligation to break with *England*, or they had a Right to demand Assistances of him, when they themselves not only durst not declare the War, but even not give out Reprizals, and this I left to his own Conscience to judge of; I bad him have a Care not to think I spoke thus as a *Bontefeu*, to instigate them to make any new stronger Declaration against the *English*; but exhorted them on the contrary to continue the same Conduct, because the Accommodation might be the more easily treated of, and concluded, there being no Rupture. And all I had said was only fully to justify the King's Proceedings, and make them themselves acknowledge the Injustice of their Demand.

I went on, that they had little Reason to complain of their not having Copies of the Letters the King wrote to the North in their Favour, that they would one Day be printed, and they would then see how much they injur'd us in such a Reproach, because we were not willing to let 'em be sooner publish'd to the World; and 'tis certain they would have been sent to the Press four Days after we had communicated them

to them; in which they would have done themselves a Mischief, by rendring us incapable of any Mediation with *England*. And after all, if they thought we did not in this act like good Allies, they themselves set us the Example, in not communicating to the King the true Copy of the Instructions they sent their Ambassadors at *Madrid*, about the defensive League of the *Low-Countries*.

At this the said *Van Benningen* became as red as Fire, and I know very well why I said it.

I insisted chiefly on their Imprudence in pressing the King, even for their own Interest, to take any step now, that should give the *English* any reasonable Grounds to reject the King's Mediation of an Accommodation on his having render'd himself a Party, and interested against them; upon which I told him, suppose we should do so, and it should as you believe produce an Accommodation the next Day; the third the King of *England* will Unite himself closely with *Spain*; and the fourth the Lords the States will enter into the Union with the other two against the King, for the Defence of the *Low-Countries*; he reply'd, if the King of *England* should unite with the *Spaniards*, the King would have the States on his Side. I reply'd, they knew very well how to tell us we were the Aggressors, and so join with the other two. Several other Things were said, which I have not time to write you, but that's the Substance and Chief of all.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries : February 28, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that *James Richard* a French Man, Master of a *Bilander*, call'd the *Fortune*, Burtien eighteen or nineteen Tons, being arriv'd at *Amsterdam*, whither he brought Stones, desires to return loaden with Herings, Cod, and other salt Fish to carry to France; which gives Occasion to the said Ambassador Extraordinary, to pray your Lordships to permit him, and to order the Admiralty of *Rotterdam* not to make any Difficulty of it, either as to his Loading or Departure, to which he hopes you will the more readily incline, for that 'tis a little French Boat of almost no Consideration, and you have already permitted the Exportation of Salt Fish, after they are effectively paid for. Given at the *Hague*, February 28, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

*From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March 5, 1665.*

THE Visit Monsieur *de Wit* has made me was accompanied with abundance of Demonstrations of Affection for your Majesty's Interests, and in terms quite different from those of the last Conference we had.

He in Part communicated to me, the Matters contain'd in the *Sieur Van Beuningen's* Letter to him, but

did not explain himself so far as the Letter it self did, of which I send your Majesty a Copy.

He would have satisfy'd me, as to what related to the Instruction sent to *Madrid*, on the defensive League for the *Netherlands*, and said he had told me all Don *Esteven de Gamarre* had hitherto done, and how he had always given him to understand, they could not hearken to nor enter into this Negotiation without your Majesty's Participation, with whom the States had made a close Alliance, and that Affair broke off so.

Sometime after Don *Esteven de Gamarre* demanded of him, since the States would not hearken to this Treaty in this Country, that they would order their Ambassadors at *Madrid* to hear what Proposals might be made there jointly with *England*, who sent an Ambassador thither also; that he reply'd, the States would give no Orders thereon, nor enter into any Negotiation without your Majesty's Participation; that he has heard no talk of it since, and assur'd me the Lords the States had sent no Instructions on that Subject to their Ambassador.

I reply'd, 'Twas true, he had acquainted me with Don *Esteven de Gamarre*'s Proposals to prosecute the defensive League in this Country, that I had given your Majesty an Account of it from time to time; but as to what the said Don *Esteven de Gamarre* had said to him to remove the Affair to *Spain*, he had never mention'd it, tho' the Affair was of that Importance as to deserve not to be conceal'd, but be told with the Confidence he demonstrated to me on other Occasions. He had nothing to answer, but that having rejected the Proposal he thought he had done enough, which Reason I look'd upon as very weak.

He said afterwards, if your Majesty let them know, 'twas not for your Interest to send them Succours at the same time the Negotiation was treating in *England*, they would accommodate themselves to what your Majesty desir'd, provided you promis'd in Writing that in case the King of *England* would not comply, your
Majesty

Majesty would break with him, and join with the States pursuant to the Obligation of the Treaty.

I reply'd, I would not charge my self with that Commission, that I was not satisfy'd entirely of your Majesty's being oblig'd by the Treaty to Succour 'em in this Case, and to give them the Writing they demanded would be to acknowledge you are.

But that, if the Lords the States would order the *Sieur Van Benningen* to desire your Majesty to remain Neuter; and to redouble your good Offices to bring the King of England to an Accommodation, and so to order it, that your Ambassadors may speak to the said King in terms; with a *double entendre*, to give him Apprehensions, that if he would not come to an Accommodation your Majesty would side with them: I believe you had such an Affection for the States and their Interests that you would do it, but that however I propos'd it only as from my self; this did not seem to satisfy him; and I broke off the Discourse, not being willing to enter farther into it.

Richard has been with the Chief of the State, and the President for the Week, to tell them your Majesty has treated with the *Rhingrave* for *Maeßricht*, and that he knows you are treating with the *Liegeois* for *Bouillon* and *Dinant*; this has rais'd a troublesome Business for the *Rhingrave*, which obliges him to come hither. I complain'd of it to *Monsieur de Wit*, and declar'd to him your Majesty would take it very ill, that People belonging to the State should be susceptible of such Impressions from a Rascal, and that I doubted not his Master would disown him.

The *Sieur de Wit* reply'd, he did not believe him, and had told *Monsieur the Rhingrave*, that it would do him no harm in the Opinion of the Lords the States.

Monsieur the Prince of Taranté has obtain'd the Government of *Boisleduc*, which is the strongest and most considerable Place the States have; all the *Spanish* Caval was against him, and even some of the States went from

from House to House to sollicite against him, saying, 'twas very dangerous to put the Key of the Country into the Hands of a *Frenchman*. All which they got over, and he carries himself very well towards those that Govern, and acts with a great deal of Zeal in every thing which concerns your Majesty's Service. The Fleet has Orders to put to Sea by the end of this Month, to seek out the *English* and fight it.

The breaking the *English* Troops is resolv'd on, and 'tis not doubted but 'twill be done in a few Days.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, March 5, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships that Francis Meterelt, Master of the Ship call'd the *Gift of God*, of St. Valery, of about 30 Tons, coming to Rotterdam with Merchandize, desires to return to France with Herrings, Salt-fish and other Goods; but inasmuch as the College of Admiralty of Rotterdam may make a Scruple of letting him load and depart on account of your last Edicts of Prohibition, the Ambassador Extraordinary entreats your Lordships to permit the said Francis to load and depart, and to that Effect to order the said College of Admiralty not to molest him, since the said Ship and her Crew are *French*, that you have already consented to the Exportation of Salt-fish, and that the Vessel is of very little Consequence. Given at the Hague, March 5, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estades:

March 6, 1665.

I find by your Dispatch of the 26th past, that they are, with you, very impatient to have me declare; that they seem to slight the Embassie I am sending to *England*, and that on what is suggested to them by the *Spanish* Faction and *Downings*, they make divers Judgments of my Intention, all very far from the Truth. I shall, however, go my own way; the End will shew what was in my Heart at the beginning, and I perceive these People are to be treated like such Men who are for hurtful Remedies because they are pleasant, and don't know what is useful for them for the recovery of their Health: Would it be beneficial for themselves, that by a hasty Declaration I put it out of my Power to procure an Accommodation, and give the King of *England* occasion to reply to the Overtures of my Ambassadors, that he cannot hearken to 'em since they come from a Prince who is of the contrary Party.

I did not hasten the departure of my Ambassadors since I made choice of the Persons, because I had cause to question how they would be receiv'd in *England*; but since the King of *Great Britain* has declar'd to the *Sieur de Cominges*, that the Embassie and Ambassadors would be welcome to him, and seem'd to be very well pleas'd with it (which shews he is not so averse to Peace as has been thought) I have order'd the said Ambassadors to depart this Month.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : March 6, 1665.

WHEN you are prest to declare whether the King will execute the Treaty of 1662, I think the Answer should always be, as 'tis true, That they should not doubt it, because the King is incapable of not performing a Treaty he has made, but that he only stays to examine, whether as the present Cases lyes, he's oblig'd to execute it by assisting the States against *England*.

Monsieur *Van Beunningen* prest me two Days ago to tell him (tho' 'twere only by way of Secrecy, and to go no further) whether the King would perform the Treaty; I reply'd, that if the King were now so determin'd, 'twould be a Secret to be told to the King of *England*, rather than him, and that things should be manag'd as they were, that he might be the more useful to them. I having had some Information that the Lords the States will not approve of *Van Beunningen's* going into *England*, before the Declaration, with the Ambassador's, 'twould be at least proper that the King should know beforehand, by means of Monsieur de *Wit*, on what Conditions, or very near, the Lords the States would consent to an Accommodation, that his Majesty may instruct his Ambassadors; as for Example, Whether they would agree to such an Accommodation as is come into my Thoughts while I'm writing? That as to *New Belgia*, the Quarrel should be decided in the *Indies* by Arms, without disturbing the Peace of *Europe*; that for *Guinea*, the King of *England* should have one or two Posts there, such as are convenient to partacipate of the Commerce. I have not found *Van Beunningen* very far off of it. That for their two Ships, the *Bonaventure* and the *Good Hope*, and for all the Damages they pretend to have been done them in general, they shall keep all the Prizes taken since the Hosti-

Hostilities began, and whoever has lost shall stand by the Losers.

That for the future, a Regulation be made for Maritime Affairs and Trade on the Plan *Downing* has presented to the States.

Manage this, I pray you, so that (if you think fit to speak of it to Monsieur *de Wit*) he may not imagine the King has any reason to believe the *English* will be contented with these Conditions, and you may have no dispute with him, whether they are just or Unjust, Exorbitant or Moderate; for as I have said already, they are Thoughts purely Chimerical which are come into my Head, and therefore I am of Opinion 'twould be best to oblige the *Sieur de Wit* to discourse the Matter, and explain himself without proposing any thing to him.

The King cannot believe there are any of his Subjects at *Dunkirk*, who have taken Commissions from the King of *England* to make War on the *Dutch*. 'Tis not likely it should be so, but if it be found true, his Majesty will take care about it; I have written to Monsieur *de Montpesat*, as from him, to learn the Truth of it.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 7, 1665.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that Monsieur *de Ghent* coming from you with Complaints, that three Citizens of *Dunkirk*, mention'd by him, had taken Commissions from the King of *England* to make War on your Subjects, he forthwith wrote to *Dunkirk* to know the truth of it; and
by

by the Answer he has receiv'd, they seem to wonder
 that this Information against the three Citizens afore-
 said should be given your Lordships, since 'tis not
 only false, but very far from any appearance of truth,
 for that the *Sieur John Jacobson* has been at *Amster-*
dam these six Weeks by the King's Order, to fetch
 Masts and other Utensils which have been bought to
 fit out two Frigats which are at *Dunkirk*. That
Charles Verbruck is gone with a Bilander, of which
 he is Master, to trade to *Flushing*; and *John John-*
son Gouvernour is gone to *Bordeaux* with a small
 Pink of 100 Tons; the latter also having the King's
 Commission for building his Ships, and has also the
 keeping of the Stores at *Dunkirk*, where his Fami-
 ly is; so that your Lordships will be undeceiv'd as
 to the Opinion you had of the Affirmation, and may
 judge of its falshood by what is abovesaid; you
 may also assure your selves, if any one durst take
 such Commissions from any Foreign Prince whatso-
 ever without Permission of the King his Master, he
 would be punish'd according to the rigour of the
 Laws. The same Answer imports further, that In-
 quiry would be carefully made, whether any new In-
 habitants of the said City of *Dunkirk* had any Inclina-
 tion to take such Commissions of the King of *Eng-*
land, to send Word of it immediately to the said
 Ambassador Extraordinary, and use the necessary
 Means to prevent it. This is what he thought it his
 Duty to make known to your Lordships, that seeing
 every thing clear'd at large by this Answer, and the
 Information you receiv'd prov'd false; you may be
 easie on this Account. Given at the *Hague*, March 7,
 1665.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
March 12, 1665.

I Hope the Lords the States will in time comprehend that they were in the wrong to make such an ill Judgment of the Sincerity of your Majesty's Intention on the present State of Affairs, and will acknowledge your Conduct with respect to them to be full of Goodness, notwithstanding all they say. I have let them know how your Majesty hastens the departure of your Ambassadors Extraordinary, on the Assurance you have they will be well receiv'd in *England*. I don't think this will satisfy them.

Don *Esteven de Gamarre* arriv'd here four Days ago; he has assiduously visited the Deputies of the Cities, and I know he told them the Treaty they had with your Majesty would be no more secure nor observ'd, than that the King his Master had made with you; that they know as well as he, your Majesty contrary to the Treaty assisted the Duke of *Braganza* with Men and Money, and if they were wise they would govern themselves accordingly.

Downing on the other hand, assures those of his Cabal, the King of *England* will hearken to no Accommodation by the Mediation of *France*, that they had better make up Matters here, and that he has all the Powers for it.

I have observ'd in all my Conferences with my Friends, that these Discourses make an Impression on their Minds, and the People declaring aloud they do not believe your Majesty will perform the Treaty, they dare not make use of the Reasons I have alledg'd, for fear of losing their Credit in the Cities, which makes them say as the People do; such is the present State of Affairs, they are more and more exasperated against *England*. The *English* and *Scotch* Troops are disbanded,

ded, the National Troops augmented, new Levies are made on the Frontiers of *Germany*, and the Body of *French* are lessen'd as much as possible; insomuch that the vacant Offices in our Regiments are fill'd with *Flemmings* instead of *French*.

The National Troops are 100 Men in a Company, and ours but 30; 'tis easie to perceive by the States carriage that they intend to reduce the Body of *French* in a little time to nothing, and will have none but *Germans* and *Flemmings* in their Army.

When they shall have any Troubles on their Hands by Land, they will stand again in need of the Foreigners they have ill us'd; but it may then be too late, and I may tell your Majesty, that with all their Army of new Troops they dare not keep the Field against 6000 Foot and 2000 Horse of your Majesty's: By which they ought to judge how much 'tis for their Interest to preserve your Friendship and Alliance. But what is to be pity'd in them is, they don't see the State is in the Hands of Merchants, and whatever Care your Majesty takes to relieve them, they would fall at once like Blindmen into the Precipice, if your Majesty did not pull them back.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries. March 11, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that the King his Master, expecting you will make no Difficulty to let the Ships the *India Company* of *France* have bought, or may buy within your Dominions, freely to depart; his Majesty has order'd him to use Instances with your Lordships, that you will

now

' now be pleas'd to give Permission to two Ships
 ' bought some time ago for the said Company's Ac-
 ' count at *Amsterdam* to sail, the one being call'd the
 ' *St. John*, and the other the *Mary*, to be mann'd with
 ' *French* Captains and Crews and carry'd to *France*. And
 ' the said Company being sole Owners of these two
 ' Ships, and for that they would perish by staying there,
 ' and eat themselves out with the Expence of their
 ' pretty numerous Crews, without this State's reaping
 ' any Benefit by it, the said Ambassador Extraordi-
 ' nary hopes your Lordships will readily agree to give
 ' the King, his Master, this Satisfaction; and will to
 ' this Effect, give Order in Conformity hereunto to
 ' the College of Admiralty at *Amsterdam*, freely to per-
 ' mit 'em to depart for *France*. The said Ambassador Ex-
 ' traordinary represents also to your Lordships, that the
 ' Ship call'd the *Flying Eagle*, Burthen fourscore Tons
 ' or thereabouts, having been bought at *Amsterdam*,
 ' for account of *French* Merchants, three Months since,
 ' could not sail 'till now, as well on account of her re-
 ' fitting, as the continual Ice which has stop'd her
 ' and other Ships; and fearing the College of Admiralty
 ' may hinder her sailing, because of your Lordships
 ' last Orders of Prohibition, the said Ambassador
 ' prays you to grant her a Licence, and to order the
 ' College of Admiralty to give her no Molestation;
 ' which he hopes you will the more willingly consent
 ' to, for that the said Ship was loaden before the Pro-
 ' hibition, for the most part with Salt Fish, and a few
 ' other Goods, for which Payment has been punctual-
 ' ly made, that there's no Cannon aboard, so that 'tis a
 ' Vessel of very little Consequence; and that one *Michael Robert of Diep*, is come on purpose with six
 ' *Frenchmen* to go aboard the said Ship, and carry her
 ' to *France*. You will be so kind as to expediate
 ' these Orders forthwith, that she may not waste her
 ' self with useles Charges. Given at the *Hague*,
March 11, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

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From

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: March 12, 1665.

Those who are at the Helm have so exasperated the People against *England*, that 'tis not now in their Power to stop them. The States-General would willingly not have made such haste to break the *English* and *Scotch* Troops, but the Cities of *Holland*, among which those Troops were divided, would have it so, and the said States were forc'd to comply.

Monsieur *de Wit* has made me a Visit, and talk'd to me, as he said, very freely on the little Fruit he expected from the Extraordinary Embassie, and that the Assistance pursuant to the Treaty would have a much better effect. I should trouble you with Repetitions to tell you what Answer I made him thereto, it being the same thing I have told you in my former Dispatches.

He added, he met with great Difficulties to accomplish an Accommodation; he said, the Ambassadors Extraordinary knew neither their Interests nor their Pretensions, that the way of Proceeding in *England* was ridiculous, their Demands exorbitant and unreasonable, and that the States Answers will be the same; that 'twould take up a great deal of time to go and come from *Holland*, to communicate what passes; and they cou'd not send Monsieur *Van Beuningen* thither, because his Commission runs to reside with the King to demand the Succours pursuant to the Treaty.

Neither could they give full Power to the Ambassador *Van Goch*, whom they have in *England*, he not having Capacity to negotiate such an Affair; and thus the Lords the States foresaw abundance of Accidents by Delays, which will be inevitable; that the Fleets being to put to Sea by the end of this Month, 'twould be impossible to avoid a Battel; that 'tis certain, he who gains it would alter the Plan on which they were treating,
and

and what might be adjusted before the Combat not be perform'd afterwards. I thought this was an Opportunity to enter into the Matter with Monsieur de Wit, without engaging my self in any thing, and to follow the Advice you gave me in your Letter, to oblige him to speak of it first.

I reply'd, he might get over all the Difficulties he objected to me, by declaring his Thoughts to the King, as to the Points of the Accommodation that related to the Interest of the States, which if he told me, I would be sure to give his Majesty notice of it, that he might give his Ambassadors Orders about it, in Consequence of the Overture he should make me, which would very much shorten Affairs, and enable them to manage their Interests according to their desire.

That I thought also, what he alledg'd for keeping Monsieur Van Beuningen with your Majesty was not strong enough, since the King is entirely convinc'd, that to declare by sending them the Succours would destroy the Negotiation, and 'twould not be prudence to do it; wherefore it would be more proper to send him to *England* with our Ambassadors; that I must tell him plainly, to talk so often of the Succours, and not comprehend that what the King does, is much more for the Advantage of the States, who are obstinately bent on a Rupture, and would avoid all Opportunities of an Accommodation, does not agree with the Discourse they use in the Cities that they are forc'd to a War, that they have offer'd all just and reasonable Conditions of Peace, and that the *English* have refus'd them; that he should reflect on what will be said in the Cities when the People know the contrary, and that the King's Advice for the Treaty was not follow'd; what then would they do who oppos'd it, and what a Revolution may not happen in the present Government; that 'twill not then be time to consent that there be no more talk of the Succours than should be, that they should look to themselves, and think of ways to be safe; that he knew very well for less than this, the Sieurs *Thi-*

bant and *Serotte* were plunder'd, and their Houses pull'd down in *Zealand*; and had they not made their escape that had been massacred, that several of their Relations and Friends were kill'd and drag'd thro' the Streets by the People; that the same thing happen'd at *Groningen* and *Friseland* at the same time; that the same People are still in being, and 'tis best to be always safe by taking the safest way, as is that of Peace, and depending on the King's Protection. As to the Accidents which might happen by a Combat, it seems to me to be easie to avoid them, both Sides agreeing not to let their Fleets come out, 'till the King saw by the Course of the Negotiation, if there were any hopes of an Accommodation or not.

He reply'd, that *Monsieur Van Benningen* being with the King to demand Succours, the Resolution of all the Provinces as to that could not be revok'd; that before he could open himself as to the Conditions, he must confer with the States-General, but he might tell me beforehand, he believ'd their Opinion would be for Restitution on both Sides of whatever has been taken by Sea or Land on the Coasts of *Guiney* and *Nova Belgia*; and that what appear'd to be lawfully due for the Ships *Bonaventure* and *Good Hope* should be paid, and also that a Regulation for Trade be agreed upon to avoid all Disputes for the future.

As to putting off the Fleets going to Sea, he thought the Lords the States would hardly consent to it, because the delay would be prejudicial to them, by the great Losses they should suffer in the Charge and otherwise. I answer'd, I remembred he told me formerly, if the King of *England* would agree that the Hostilities should not be committed in *Europe*, the States would consent they should be only on the Coast of *Guiney*, and in the *Indies*; and I ask'd him then, whether he thought the States Sentiments were still the same; he reply'd, he believ'd they were, and they would be glad to decide the Difference by Arms in
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that Country and *Nova Belgia*, and agree about the rest with the *English*.

I answer'd, by way of Discourse, the Bargain would not be equal, that their Forces being stronger than those of the *English*, they would take away from them all their Possessions on the Coast of *Guiney*, and entirely exclude them from a Trade thither, which was the occasion of the Difference, and the *English* would never consent to it: But to do things fairly, they should leave the *English* in Possession of what they enjoy'd before the Rupture; that is, the Forts of *St. Andrew* and *Bonavista*, on the River of *Gambay*, tho' the States pretend to them, they having taken them two Years ago, and Fort *Courmantel* with the Factories they have on the *Guiney* Coast, and maintain a good Correspondence with one another. He reply'd, if things were come to that, he believ'd the States would give up the Forts of *St. Andrew* and *Bonavista*, and what they had taken from the *English*, tho' considerable, at the King's Request.

I did not think it proper to enter farther into Discourse on this Matter, having inform'd my self sufficiently without engaging in any thing; I have let the Lords the States know the King has taken the *Sieur Carolof* into his Service and Protection: But to do him an effectual good Office with the Magistrates of *Amsterdam*, 'twould be requisite to get the *Sieur Van Benningen* to write to the said Magistrates, because they would pay a great deal of deference to his Recommendation. I lose no time to sollicite the Court of *Holland* to finish *Monfieur le Febvre's* Affair; but there are so many delays in the Courts of Justice in this Country, that it tires out all Patience; however, I hope before *Easter* the Verdict will be executed, and I shall redouble my Care since you concern your self in it.

The Lords the States resolv'd this Morning to put 6000 Foot aboard the Ships with fourscore Officers, there will be in all 10000 Men aboard besides Mariners.

ners. According to my Information the King of England will be mistaken, and will find the States Fleet stronger in Ships than he expects, better furnish'd with Men, and better commanded.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 12, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that the *Sieur de la Garde Belin* having inform'd the King his Master, that he cannot send some Masts and other Merchandize his Majesty order'd him to buy for his Sea Service, to *Brewege*, on account of your Lordships Prohibitions, not to let any Merchandize be exported from your Ports, and his Majesty having in the mean time occasion of those the said *la Garde Belin* has bought for his Magazines; the said Ambassador Extraordinary has express Orders to use earnest Instances with your Lordships, in the Name of the King his Master, that you will be pleas'd to permit the said Merchandizes to be exported, in order to be sent to *Brewege*; of which Order he acquits himself with the more Confidence of your complying, because 'tis for his Majesty's Use, and will be to his Satisfaction, not doubting but you will give the necessary Instructions to the College of Admiralty at *Amsterdam*, that it may make no difficulty there. Given at the *Hague*; March 12, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
March 13, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 5th; you did very well not to take on you to give me an account of the fine Proposal Monsieur de Wit made you, to give a Promise in Writing to break with *England*, if our Accommodation was not made, and that having such a Writing they would press me no more for Succours. Such Proposals as that do not deserve Answer. In the mean-time the Sieur *Van Beuningen* has demanded Audience of me, which I have granted him for to Morrow. I shall hear all he has to say, but question whether I have any Answer to make him further, than that I shall give Orders that my Ambassadors may depart this Month at any rate whatsoever.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count D'Estrades: March 13, 1665.

Monsieur *Van Beuningen* came to me the Day before Yesterday, and said only the same things he us'd to say, but with less warmth, since I gave him to understand 'twould be very proper that he should either resolve to go to *England* with our Ambassadors, or tell me plainly on what Terms the States would come to an Accommodation, that I may insert them in their Instructions, for it may so happen that the said Ambassadors may find the King of Great Britain very well dispos'd to a Peace; and after their first Audience they may not know what to say to him being not acquainted with the States Intentions. The Sieur *Van Beuningen* reply'd, they had an Ambassador at London, but that he did not know whether he was qualify'd to treat of so great an Affair.

I can't tell whether ever I told you, why my Cousin de *Lessins* was sent into *Germany*; however, having nothing of more Importance to tell you, I shall now inform you that the Marquis de *Castel Rodrigo*, intending to form an Army of 20000 Men in the *Low-Countries*, and in Order to it, to have a Body of 6000 *Germans* march thither at one time, being promis'd him by the Emperor, which was a quick and grateful return for the 6000 *French* the King sent to his Assistance, his Majesty not thinking fit to bear with this fine Project of the new Governor of *Flanders*, sent an Express to *Spain* to complain of it there, and *Lessins* to the Electors and Princes his Allies, to Embarrass the Passage of the *Rhine* to the said Body of the *Germans*, and made some Motion with his Troops which allarm'd *Flanders*. The Courier return'd three Days since, and there are a great many other Negotiations between the Marquis de *Fuentes* and me. It has been concluded, concerted and stipulated, that of the Body of 6000 Men that were promis'd, but 1500 Foot and 600 Horse should come into the *Low-Countries*, to which his Majesty consented, and not to oppose their Passage, in complacency to his Father-in-Law, who on this occasion carry'd himself as handsomely as could be, to take away all cause of Jealousie from us. Thus finish'd this great Affair which seem'd to threaten to involve *Europe* in new Troubles, and set us again at Variance with the House of *Austria*; the King has graciously acquiesc'd, tho' between you and me, he had no manner of Right to meddle in the Matter.

Signea,

DE LIONNE

And in the Margin was written.

I send you a particular Letter from the King, ordering you to demand of the States a second time Permission for the five Ships belonging to the *East India Company*, loaden with Boards, Nails, Hoops and Cables, to depart from their Ports.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, March 14, 1665.

THE Count d'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that Peter Bertrand, Master of a Ship belonging to Havre de Grace, burthen 100 Tons, call'd *The Hope*, having within these four Days brought to Amsterdam, by order of the East-India Company of France, Crews of Frenchmen to be put aboard the *St. John* and the *Mary*, which they have caus'd to be bought in the said City, and which have lately been deny'd Licence to Sail, desires to return to France either empty or loaden with Salt Fish; wherefore the said Ambassador Extraordinary prays your Lordships to give him such Licence, and for that effect to order the College of Amsterdam to let him Sail without any Difficulty. Given at the Hague, March 14, 1665.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 18, 1665.

THE Count d'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, having formerly us'd earnest and repeated Instances from time to time with your Lordships, that you will be pleas'd to permit the Ships bought by the India Companies of France freely to sail out of your Ports, without having been

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able to obtain it, and lately in particular that of the two Ships the *St. John* and the *Mary* belonging to the *East-India* Company, which he earnestly demanded by his Memorial of the 11th of this Month, in the Name, and by the express Orders of the King his Master, is now oblig'd to acquaint your Lordships, that his Majesty being inform'd of this refusal has sent him by the last Post from *France*, strict Orders to renew the said Instances, as he now does, for the Departure of all these Ships belonging to the *India* Companies of *France*, with the Goods and Merchandizes, with which they shall be loaden for their Service, and the Persons employ'd about it, out of all Ports within your Dominions in conformity to the Treaty of 1662. The said Ambassador Extraordinary declaring to your Lordships, that the Difficulties or Denials that shall be met with here will certainly be taken for a plain Infraction of the 25th Article of the said Treaty, which contains in express Terms, *That the Ships, and the Goods and Merchandizes with which they shall be loaden, may not be seiz'd nor stop'd by Virtue of any General or particular Order whatsoever, nay not under pretext of the Preservation and Defence of the States; which the said Ambassador thought himself bound to notify to your Lordships, notwithstanding your Knowledge of it, that you may consider how by your Prudence to prevent the ill Effects, which such Infraction of the said Treaty may produce, as well with Respect to the Ships of the India Companies of France, as others belonging to his Majesty's Subjects, which tho' empty are molested and hinder'd in their Departure to their almost as great Prejudice as an absolute Denial.*

The said Ambassador Extraordinary is also charg'd to set before your Lordships the Complaints of *Thomas Fevre* of *Diepe*, who being bound from *Berwick* in *England* to *Havre* with a Vessel loaden with Salmon, Herrings, and other Merchandize, for the Ac-

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count of *Michel Mel* of *Diepe*, the aforesaid Merchant
 met in his Passage, in *Haux Bay*, two *Dutch* Privateers
 pretending to belong to *Rotterdam*, one of which
 sent her Long-boat with 16 Men aboard, who not-
 withstanding his declaring himself a *Frenchman*, and
 shewing his Licence from the Admiralty of *Diepe*,
 forc'd him to leave his Vessel, beat him, threaten'd
 him with their Axes and Pistols, enter'd his Ship,
 took seventeen Rixdollars, and sixty Schelings
 out of his Chest, with abundance of Utensils be-
 longing to Ships, and Cloaths from himself and his
 Crew, then carry'd him aboard one of the said Ships,
 the Captain of which promis'd to restore the Mony,
 Utensils and Victuals they had taken, and send him
 back to his Vessel; but instead of that the said *Dutch*
men us'd him still worse, and pillag'd further four
 Packets of Woolsted-Stockings belonging to the said
Mel, after which the said *Dutch* Ships made off, and
 the said *Le Fevre* continu'd his Voyage to *Havre*,
 where he arriv'd the sixth of this Month, and had
 his Crew examin'd the seventh: Upon which Com-
 plaints, and those the King his Master makes of the
 ill Usage, two *French* Ships, one of *Havre*, and a-
 nother of *Dunkirk* carry'd into *Zealand*, after their
 Crews had been put to unheard of Tortures to
 plunder 'em of their Goods, have receiv'd from the
 Subjects of this State, the said Ambassador Extraordi-
 nary does not doubt, but your Lordships will forthwith
 cause to be made good, not only the Damages suf-
 fer'd by the Masters and Seamen of the said Ships;
 but also have the Offenders punish'd for such Pira-
 cies, exercis'd knowingly against the *French* Allies
 to this State, according to the Rigour of the Laws,
 Given at the *Hague*, *March 18, 1665.*

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: March 19, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 13th, and perceiv'd by what you said to Monsieur *Van Beuningen*, how you open'd the way for him to get the Lords the States to declare, what they expect for their Interests in the Negotiation of Peace. It now lyes on them to give the King the means to advance so great a Work by explaining themselves thereon. I find by the *Sieur de Wit's* Discourse, he's still of Opinion the King fails in the Execution of the Treaty by not sending the Succours. He has so convinc'd the Deputies of *Holland* of it, that 'tis a hard Matter to make them think otherwise than he does; time will undeceive them. He does not believe this Embassy will bring the King of *England* to an Accommodation, and has repeated the same Things to me, I writ you of last Post.

I had not heard of Monsieur *de Lessin's* Journey to *Germany*, I give my humble Thanks for your communicating it to me.

The lessening the Number of the Troops which were to come from *Germany* to *Flanders*, shews that the Emperor and King of *Spain* are loth to lose the King's Friendship, by their removing all cause of Complaint out of his way.

I send you a Copy of the Memorial I presented to the States concerning the Ships and Goods bought by the *India* Companies of *France*, which they detain in their Ports, and will not suffer to depart. I cannot have an Answer time enough to send you this Post. If you think fit to speak pretty warmly about it to Monsieur *Van Beuningen* 'twill have a good Effect, because all the Opposition comes from the City of *Amsterdam*; the States resolving nothing thereon, 'till they have the Advice of the Admiralty of that City, which is
always

always contrary to such Things, as I have already written you. Madam the Princess of *Orange* has receiv'd a Letter from the Chancellor of *England*, to blame her, in the King's Name, for the Accommodation she has made about *Orange*, and consenting to have a Catholick Governor plac'd there: She reply'd, She wonder'd he should blame her; that she was oblig'd to the King for his good Will in resigning *Orange* to her young Son, but if the King of *England* could get the King to let a Hugonot Governor be plac'd there, she would soon recal him whom she has chosen, who is Monsieur *Millet* a *Frenchman*, a good Catholick, and a Captain in my Regiment; she thought fit to write him this to shew him the better her Gratitude for the King's obliging way of Proceeding towards her, and that she could not give a greater Proof of it, than by putting a *Frenchman* into *Orange*, who will always depend on his Majesty.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
 March 20, 1665.

TO Answer your Dispatch of the 12th, I must tell you, that what Don *Esseu de Gamarre* has publish'd since his Arrival, shall not oblige me to alter the Conduct I have prescrib'd to my self, 'till I see whether my Ambassadors can bring about an Accommodation at *London*. As to what *Downing* says, that his Master will not accept of my Mediation, and that he has himself all the necessary Powers for adjusting Matters, I don't think the first Thing is true, and wish with all my Heart he had already succeeded in the second, not mattering by what hand this great Work is done, provided I see it finish'd, and the publick Peace restor'd. Moreover, I think what you represented to the *Sieur de Wit*, of the Inconveniences and Misfortunes which may

may happen to those who have now the Direction of the Affairs of the State, thro' their present Conduct, to be very Prudent, and very strong. In the mean time, what the *Sieur de Wit* began to tell you of the Conditions on which the States would consent to an Accommodation may very well serve for an Introduction to my Ambassadors to begin their Negotiations, but not to end any thing that's good, it being easie to perceive the *English* are so proud and confident nothing can resist their Maritime Power, that the States must make much greater Compliances for Peace; wherefore 'twill be convenient for you to dive still farther into their Intentions, assuring them the Secret shall be manag'd with care, and with no other Design than to procure their greatest Welfare and Advantage. I refer you to what I have charg'd *Lionne* to write you about the Difficulties they make, with you, to let the Ships bought by the East and West *India* Companies, my Subjects, sail out of their Ports.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : March 20, 1665.*

THE King does not desire you should pass over in Silence, and comply with what they have done, with you, concerning the Ships bought for Account of the *India* Companies, under Colour that the Prohibition to let none Sail includes the States Subjects as well as Foreigners. Upon which you must know, whether or no they will execute the clearest Article of our Treaty, which cannot admit of any other Explanation, that is the 16th, containing, That the Ships of both Nations, or the Goods aboard them, may not be seiz'd or stop'd by Virtue of any general or particular Order whatsoever, or for any Cause or Occasion, may not under pretext of the Preservation and Defence of the

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the State; and nothing in general can be taken from the Subjects of either Party, without the Consent of those to whom it belongs, by paying what shall be desired of them.

There remains nothing after a Foundation so well establish'd, but powerfully to say and represent the Ships stop'd were bought before the Prohibitions were made, with you, not to let any depart, and consequently they were *French* before such Prohibition, and if they will execute the Treaty they cannot stop them without the Consent of our Companies, which Consent they are very far from giving, having Occasion for the said Ships, wherefore his Majesty desires that you apply your self to this Affair, being of the greatest Importance to his Service.

Monsieur *Van Benningen* was with me yesterday, and trusted me with a Thought, or rather the Desire of the States for a Thing which concerns you, confessing it came into his Head first, and having communicated it to Monsieur *de Wit*, he highly approv'd of it; 'tis for you to make a Tour into *England*, while the Irons are in the Fire, for the Negotiation of an Accommodation. The said Sieur *Van Benningen* made use of the same Reasons, which I found by your last particular Dispatch Monsieur *de Wit* had already given you, wherefore I shall not uselessly repeat them.

That he the said *Van Benningen* could not go into *England*, and that the Lords the States, would as willingly confide in you as their own Subjects, the whole Secret of their Intentions, and should rely very much on the Advice you gave them. I reply'd, he might add, to Corroborate what he had said, you would besides have a great Influence over the Minds of the principal Ministers of *England*, you being entirely well with them when you came away, and having left in the Country the Character of a sublime Capacity behind you.

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That I was sure the King would with Pleasure resolve on any thing which might contribute to the Accommodation, and the States desir'd to that End, that I only foresaw one little Difficulty which might obstruct this Motion.

I mention'd it in the Afternoon to the King, who charg'd me to write to you of it by way of Secret and Confidence, to know first your own Opinion of this Voyage, that we may form it the better, not being Ignorant of any of the Circumstances. I must tell you, that we ought by no means to do such an Injury to Monsieur de Cominges, as to send an Ambassador to precede him in the Place of his Residence, as Monsieur the Duke de Verneuil will. You know the Reason of the Place of Residence is so strong, that when I was at Rome in 1665, in the Quality of Ambassador to the Princes of Italy, and Monsieur d'Argencon came to visit the Holy Places, he pretending to Precedence of me, 'twas adjudged against him, because I was in the Place of my Residence; so that I shall make use of no other Reasons than that to shew you your Honour will be entirely safe, if in going to England you give Precedence to Monsieur de Cominges, as he ought to give it to you were the Embassie to come to Holland.

It seems to me, that there's something so honourable in this for you, that you should rejoice that the Occasion offer'd, and things should happen as I have been saying.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: March 25, 1665.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, having often acquainted your Lordships how earnestly the King his Master desires the Ships bought for the Account of the *India Companies of France*, may sail out of the Harbours of this Country, and that their Detention is directly contrary to the Treaty of 1662, to which you have given no favourable Answer; on the contrary, your Resolution on his Memorial of the 18th of this Month, tends rather to evade their sailing thence, has by the last Post from *France* receiv'd new Orders to demand of your Lordships, in his Majesty's Name, as a thing for which he's mightily concern'd, Permission for the said Ships to depart with their Goods and Merchandizes, and the Persons engag'd in the said Company's Service, or in case of refusal, to know of your Lordships, that he may give his Majesty an Account of it, whether you will or no execute the Treaty of 1662, in a very plain Article, which admits of no other Explanation; containing that the Ships of both Nations, or the Goods and Merchandizes with which they shall be loaden, may not be seiz'd nor stop'd by Virtue of any general or particular Order whatsoever, or for any Cause or Occasion, nay not under Pretext of the Preservation and Defence of the State; and in general, nothing can be taken from the Subjects of either Party, without the Consent of those to whom it belongs, and by paying what shall be desir'd of them. The King his Master, not understanding that, under Colour of the Prohibition being against all Ships, comprehending the Subjects of this State, as

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well

' well as Foreigners, *French Ships* can be of this Num-
 ' ber, because the Prohibition with respect to them is
 ' incompatible with the said Article of 1662; and
 ' were it not so, the Ships for which Permission to
 ' depart is demanded, having been bought before the
 ' said Prohibition ought consequently to be free to
 ' depart. The said Ambassador Extraordinary makes
 ' also Instances with your Lordships, that you will be
 ' pleas'd to permit a Galliot of *Dunkirk* call'd the *St.*
 ' *Peter, Anthony Vanden Berghe* Master, loaden with
 ' Utenfils his Majesty has caus'd to be bought and
 ' brought to *Flushing* from *Amsterdam*, to depart from
 ' the said Port of *Flushing*, that they may be transport-
 ' ed to *Dunkirk* aforesaid, and serve for equipping two
 ' Frigates he has caus'd to be there built; as also to ex-
 ' port several other Utenfils that may be brought thi-
 ' thier from time to time to compleat the equipping
 ' of the said two Frigates. Upon which your Lord-
 ' ships may be pleas'd to make your judicious Refle-
 ' ctions according to your usual Prudence. Given at
 the *Hague*, March 25, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de
 Lionne: March 26, 1665.

I Have by the Letter you did me the Honour to
 write me of the 20th of this Month, seen the Pro-
 posal Monsieur *Van Beuningen* made you with respect
 to me. Tho' I perceive every one is satisfy'd, that
 one Ambassador Extraordinary, whose Commission is of
 an ancients date than another, ought to have Prece-
 dence in all Places; I shall however implicitly follow
 your Advice in all things, being convinc'd you would
 not contribute towards letting a Gentleman, who is
 your Friend, commit a Fault, and one who has serv'd
 the

the King thirty Years, and has spent his Time and his Estate in his Service. For I can truly tell you, of three good Mannours left me by my late Father, there's not one remaining in me, having sold and spent 'em all to maintain the Employments I have had in the War and in Embassies. My Grief is, to find my self burthen'd with a great Family of four Sons and one Daughter, and have nothing to give 'em; and my Comfort is, I have spar'd for nothing to breed 'em up well, and have Reason to hope they will be all Persons of Honour, 'twill lye upon them to do the rest; Fortune having hitherto been very much my Enemy, Monsieur *de Wit* talk'd to me in Conformity to what you write, he desir'd I would undertake the Voyage forthwith; I told him, as soon as I had receiv'd the King's Order, I would be gone without delay; but should be glad to know first what the States would do towards giving the King an Opportunity to procure them a Peace. He said, he would apply himself all the Week to Discourse his Friends, and bring 'em to some Resolution thereon. I pray'd him so to order it, as to take away from the King of *England* a great many Disgusts a King can hardly bear from a Republick, which cannot or ought not to think her self equal with Kings.

He reply'd, the Lords the States were the Sufferers, that they desir'd nothing which was the King of *England's*, but would recover their own, and that God had given them Power enough to do it.

I urg'd him very much to grant Permission to the *India* Company's Ships to depart with the Merchandizes and other Utensils, for equipping the two Frigates at *Dunkirk*. He reply'd, it could not be done, that the Lords the States wonder'd to find in the Memorial I presented them Yesterday, (a Copy of which I send you) that I demanded of them to explain themselves, whether or no they would execute the 26th Article of the Treaty, on which he was order'd to tell me, that one need only to read the 27th and 28th, which explain'd the 26th, and shew that the States have not made any In-

fraction of the said Treaty, but punctually executed it at a time when the King was formally wanting in it on his Part, by not giving them the promis'd Succours; to which I did not agree. Abundance of things past hereon, some of 'em warm enough; the Substance is, I told him the Lords the States were so passionate in this Affair, that if the King had not born with 'em as a Father with his Children, they would have oblig'd him by their Proceeding to break off all sorts of Alliances with them, and I did not know what might happen. These Men are so proud, and so convinc'd of the King's being wanting in the Performance of the Treaty, that I doubt very much whether we can have any dependance on them, if ever we should stand in need of them; I know with great certainty the six Deputies of the principal Cities of *Holland* have said within these two Days, that all the *Spanish* Party told them of the Treaty of 1662 is come to pass: But they know how to be reveng'd, if ever the King should have occasion of 'em.

You will see, by all my Memorials, that I have not given over demanding the departure of the *India* Company's Ships, and if Monsieur *Van Beuningen* does not get the Prohibition taken off by his Letters, there's no hope of my Sollicitations succeeding; all my Memorials are answer'd with Negatives, and it seems as if the States affected it, to shew the King of *Spain* treats them better than the King; for 'twas said in the Assembly, on reading my Memorial, that the King was not satisfy'd with not performing the Treaty, but would also hinder them from defending themselves against their Enemies, by taking away from 'em the Ships built in their Country which they design'd for their own Service, and that the King of *Spain* had not been against their taking a Galloon of 76 Guns, which he had caus'd to be built at *Amsterdam*. I give you an Account of every thing that passes, you will see clearer than I into all these Affairs, and the Consequences which may be drawn from them.

I desire you to write me next Post, whether the King is for my making this Voyage. I cannot go thither with two or three Persons as you wrote me, I cannot avoid carrying less than twelve. I will take a House near my Lord's the Ambassador's for my Men, and lodge with them. Monsieur *de Wit* has already desir'd me to take two of his Relations with me. There are others of the States who have the same Design for their Relations, one can't deny them without disobliging them; the Quality of Ambassador draws after it these Extraordinary Expences, which cannot be helpt.

From the Count D'Estades to Monsieur de Lionne: March 26, 1665.

YOU will see, by my last Letters, what Satisfaction I had from Monsieur *de Wit*, as to the King's Demand for the departure of the *India* Company's Ships.

Since that, I thought it convenient to make use of my Friends in the Assembly, and visit the Deputies of the Cities, which I did, by shewing them the Justice of his Majesty's Demand pursuant to the 26th Article, and that I must tell 'em plainly, if they continu'd to refuse granting the Permission demanded, your Majesty would look on it for an Infraction of the Treaty, and they must take to themselves the ill Consequences which might happen. I thought proper to talk thus to them, after having visited the Deputies of the Cities of *Holland*, that they might favour my Memorial. Monsieur *de Wit* came to me from the States an hour before the Courier departed, to tell me he had Orders to shew me the 19th, 20th and 24th Articles of the Treaty which related to the 26th, and prov'd plainly that they had not alter'd the said Treaty by stopping the Ships bought by the *India* Companies of *France*; but

in Consideration of the King's Request, would let all those go which were bought before the Prohibition, excepting two of the Widow *de Coymans* of fifty six Guns, fitted out by them to join the Fleet; that they order Monsieur *Van Benningen* to represent to the King, how he cannot demand these two Ships without prejudicing the Treaty. I have also insisted very much to have these two Ships permitted to sail, without having been able to obtain it, as Monsieur *Van Benningen* is to tell you, and shew you what Right the States have to detain them; I did not agree with the said *de Wit* as to this pretended Right.

I also very earnestly demanded an Order of the States for Licences to export and carry away the Utensils design'd for the equipping the two Frigates at *Dunkirk*, which are stop'd at *Flushing*. The *Sieur de Wit* has promis'd me to be at the Assembly to Morrow to obtain it, tho' there are some Formalities to be observ'd therein with the States of *Zealand*; 'twill be very proper, to hasten the Matter, that you oblige Monsieur *Van Benningen* to write warmly to the Lords the States to shorten the Delays. This Visit past between Monsieur *de Wit* and me with more softness than the former.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, March 30, 1665.

THE Count *D'Estades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has receiv'd Orders from the King his Master, to demand the Restitution of a Ship belonging to *Michael Mel*, Merchant of *Diep*, call'd the *Margaret*, Burthen sixty Tons or thereabouts, which Ship coming from *Scotland* towards

Diep,

Diep, laden with Salmon, Herrings, Tallow and Butter for Accompt of the said *Michael Mel*, and mark'd with his Mark, was taken at Sea by one of your Lordships Men of War, and carry'd to *Rotterdam* under Pretext that part of the said Ship belong'd to *Scotch Owners*, which is a very weak Reason; wherefore the said Ambassador Extraordinary makes Instance to your Lordships in his Majesty's Name, that you'll be pleas'd to give the necessary Orders for the speedy Restitution of the said Ship, together with all the Merchandizes with which 'twas loaden, as also for her return to *France*, and for the Damages and Interest the said *Michael Mel* has sustain'd by the Ship's being retarded in her Discharge at *Diep*, the Merchandizes aboard her being for the most part *Leut Provisions*, which cannot be consum'd now this Season, and are therefore lost. The said Ambassador Extraordinary makes no doubt of your Lordships speedy agreeing to it at the King's Request, since you will see plainly the Satisfaction the King demands is very just, and conformable to the Freedom of Trade his Subjects ought to enjoy. Given at the *Hague*, March 30, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

Extract out of the Registers of the most Christian King's Council of State.

UPON the Complaints made to the King in his Council, by the Directors of the *East-India Company*, that having above six Months ago by their Correspondents in the City of *Amsterdam* bought and paid for two Ships, one call'd, *The St. John Baptist*, formerly *The Seven Provinces*, and the other *The Alette Maria*, both of the Burthen of 600 Tons or thereabouts, loaden with Ribs for Ships, side Planks,

Deal Boards, and all sorts of Nails, and other Things, for the Furniture and Equipping of Ships; together with a little Pink of about 150 Tons, loaden also with the same sort of Wood, and forty six Bundles of Hemp, all by Order and for Account of the said Company, who desiring to have the said Ships conducted and brought to *France*, order'd two *French* Captains, *Desparquer* and *Favet*, to depart for that end from *Havre de Grace*, and go to *Holland* with fourscore and ten Seamen all natural Born *French*, as well as the said Captains, who arriving at *Amsterdam* took Possession of the said Ships without any Difficulty or Opposition whatsoever; but when they were about to depart from the said Place of *Amsterdam*, according to the Orders they had receiv'd, they were much surpriz'd to be stop'd by the Declaration or Signification made them of a pretended Seizure of the said Ships, by the Lords the States General of the *United-Provinces*, and that under Pretext of the publick Interest, and the Necessity they lye under to make use of them in their own Affairs, which is not only contrary to the express Terms of the late Treaty of Alliance, renew'd between his Majesty and the said States, but also can be taken for nothing but a premeditated Design to which no favourable Interpretation can be given, there being now in the said Port of *Amsterdam* several other Ships of greater Burthen, and of a Bulk and Model fitter for War belonging to the said States Subjects, that have met with no Seizure; besides the said Reasons, which are more than sufficient to oblige the States to put an end to such an unjust Grievance, the *Sieur Count d'Estrades*, his Majesty's Ambassador, has in five several Audiences of the said Lords the States made very earnest Instances, and presented very pressing Memorials to obtain of them the Delivery of the said Ships, justifying the Propriety in them to be in favour of the said Company, and all without any Effect; which

not

not being to be taken for any thing but a manifest
 Infraction of the Articles of the said Treaty of Alli-
 ance, for a plain and positive Denial of Justice, and
 a very extraordinary Act of Violence, which 'tis e-
 qually Just and Necessary to oppose by the like ways;
 His said Majesty in Council has order'd all Officers
 of the general and particular Courts of Admiralty in
 this Kingdom, immediately on the Receipt of this
 present Decree to seize and stop all and any the
 Ships belonging to the Subjects of the said Lords
 the States, which they find in the Ports and Roads
 within their Jurisdiction, so that none be suffer'd to
 depart for any Cause, or under any Pretext whatso-
 ever, without his Majesty's express Order, on pain
 of the said Officers answering it at their Peril. His
 said Majesty willing and requiring the Sieur
 Duke de Vendome, Peer, Great Master, Chief and
 Super-Intendant General of the Navigation and Trade
 of France, to see this present Decree put in Execu-
 tion, and all Governors and Commanders of Mari-
 time Places, to be aiding and assisting to the said
 Officers of the Admiralty if need be, and they are
 thereunto requir'd. Done at the King's Council of
 State, his Majesty being present, held the 30th Day
 March, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

Sign'd, De LIONNE.

LEWIS, by the Grace of God King of France
 and Navarre, Count of Provence, Forcalquier,
 and the Lands Adjacent, to all the general and particu-
 lar Officers of the Courts of Admiralty of our King-
 dom, Greeting. Pursuant to the Decree, an Extra&t of
 which is hereunto annex'd, under the Counter-seal
 of our Chancery, this Day given by our Council of
 State, we being present, we will and require you by
 these Presents, sign'd with our Sign Manual, imme-
 diately

diately after the Receipt of the said Decree, and the
 said Presents, to seize and stop all and every of the
 Ships belonging to the Subjects of the Lords the
 States-General of the *United-Provinces*, which are to
 be found in the Ports and Roads within your Juris-
 diction, and to suffer none to depart for any Cause,
 and under any Pretence whatsoever, without an Ex-
 press Permission, as you will answer the Contrary at
 your Peril. We Order our most dear and well-be-
 lov'd Uncle, the Duke *de Vendome*, Peer, Great
 Master, Chief and Super-Intendant General of the
 Navigation and Commerce of *France*, to see to the
 Execution of the said Decree, and these Presents, and
 the Governors and Commanders of the Maritime
 Places, be aiding and assisting, if need be, and they
 are thereunto requir'd; commanding our Chief Ser-
 geant, if thereto requir'd, to Issue for the Execution
 of the said Decree, all Commands, Summons, Sei-
 zures, and do all other Acts Necessary and Requi-
 site without any other Permission, *Clameur de Haro*,
Charte Normand, *Prise a Partie*, and other things to the
 contrary notwithstanding, and shall give the same O-
 bedience to the Copies of the said Decree, and these
 Presents, examin'd and attested by one of our well-
 beloved and faithful Councillors, as to the Originals,
 for such is our Pleasure. Given at *Paris* the 30th Day
 of *March*, in the Year of our Lord 1665, and of
 our Reign the twenty second. Sign'd *Louis*; and low-
 er, by the King Count of *Provence*; sign'd *de Lionne*,
 and seal'd with the Great Seal of yellow Wax.

The Duke *de Vendome*, Peer, Great Master, Chief
 and Super-Intendant General of the Navigation and
 Trade of *France*; we having seen the Decree of the
 King's Council of State, and a Commission upon it,
 sign'd *Louis*, and lower *de Lionne*, and seal'd with
 the Great Seal of yellow Wax, by which, and for
 the Causes therein contain'd, his Majesty enjoyns all
 the Officers of the general and particular Courts of
 Admi-

Admiralty of this Kingdom, immediately on the Recit of the said Decree, to seize all and every of the Ships belonging to the Subjects of the Lords the States-General of the *United-Provinces*, which shall be found in the Roads and Ports within their Jurisdiction, so that none be suffer'd to depart for any Cause, and under any Pretext whatsoever, without his Majesty's Express Permission, and that as the Officers will answer it at their Peril; we, pursuant to the said Decree, and the Power and Authority his Majesty has entrusted us with in our said Office, will and require all Officers of general and particular Courts of Admiralty of this Kingdom, to see the said Decree carefully and entirely executed, so that it may be to his Majesty's full Satisfaction, and to that effect to have the said Decree register'd in their Registers, and fix'd and publish'd in all Places where need shall be, that none may pretend Cause of Ignorance, and as the said Officers will answer the contrary at their Perils. Done at *Paris* the 30th Day of *May*, 1665.

Signed,

Cæsar de Vendome.

And Lower by Order of Monseigneur

Matherall,

From the Count D'Estades to Monsieur de Lionne: April 2, 1665.

Yesterday we agreed to adjust the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Affair by Arbitration, and in the form the Sieurs *Blanspil* and *Coops*, his Chancellors, desir'd, and 'twas with much ado that Monsieur *de Wit* consented; he requir'd two things, which would have drawn the Affair out into the length of whole Years. One, that a Graht should be given; and the other, that the Cause should be try'd before the Parliament of *Paris*.

Paris. To which end, all the Papers must have been translated into *French*, and there would have been further a very great Inconveniency, for that a *Flemish* Term might decide a Question in favour of the Elector, and the *French* Translation leave it in doubt; Monsieur de *Wit* being very cunning, and aiming only to spin out the Affair, 'twas a Month before he would comply; at last he did, and the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Deputies are in hopes of a good Issue, being very well satisfy'd with the step that's gain'd.

From the King to the Count D'Estades.

A Bundance of things have past here this Week touching the Affair of the two Ships belonging to my Subjects of the *East-India* Company, which the States-General would detain by a formal and inexcusable Infraction of the 26th Article of our Treaty. 'Twas thought necessary to oblige the *Sieur Van Benningen* to write to the said States, that the said Ships be releas'd, because 'twas come to Threats, and almost to the usual Methods practic'd on a manifest denial of Justice, which is that of Reprizals. The said *Van Benningen* has hitherto maintain'd, his Masters, in keeping those Ship, had Reason on their side, and might do it without any Infraction of the Treaty, which he strangely wrested to prove his Assertions: For never Article was more clear and less subject to Cavillations than the 26th. The Truth is, the *Dutch* Ambassadors drew it up to provide against me, and to that end made it as strong as they could; the Case seeming then impossible, that a State which has 8 or 10000 Ships should seize any of my Subjects, who in a whole Year don't send above ten or twelve to *Holland*. The said *Van Benningen* has debated the Matter strenuously to set off his bad Reasoning, and presented me a Memorial; I answer'd him,

as to what he alledg'd concerning the Connexion between the 24th and 26th Articles, 'twas easie to see they had no Relation to each other, in as much as the 24th speaks only of Ships driven into Ports by Storms without discharging there, and that the Article begins with these Words, *The Masters of Ships*, and not *the Masters of the said Ships*: And as to the second Reason, the Rights of Sovereigns which they call Redemption, I said, I thought it true, and agreed in it. But that Sovereigns often tie up their Hands by Treaties, and divest themselves of their Rights in favour of their Friends, as happen'd in this Case, so self evident, and then they must necessarily observe the Treaty, without having any Power to return to, and make use of their Rights. To his third Reason, the Example of the King of *Spain* and his Galloon of 76 Guns built at *Amsterdam*; besides that I do not govern my self by any one's Example, but by Justice, that Galloon, perhaps, is not yet paid for, and perhaps the King, my Father-in-Law, has not the same urgent Occasion of it as my Subjects of the *East-India Company* have of their two Ships, without whose immediate delivery they will lose a whole Year in that great Voyage, which will be to their irreparable Damage; and as to the last Reason, the need the States stand in of those two Ships in this conjuncture; Answer was made, they were not proper for War, being built only for Trade, and that two Ships among three hundred with which they will cover the Sea, either Men of War, or Privateers can contribute little towards the decision of an Affair. Therefore one might easily perceive that this great Obstinacy to detain them, nay to the manifest Infraction of the Treaty, proceeded only from a hidden Design to cross the *East-India Company*, and from the same Principle which destroy'd two other Ships which should have made this Voyage in 1658, in the Port of *Amsterdam*. The conclusion of the Contest was, I caus'd the *Sieur Van Benningen* to be told, I expected the said two Ships should be deliver'd, that

I would put a stop to the Execution of the Reprizals granted, to give him time to write to his Master. But if I did not understand, by the Answer to this Dispatch, that the said Ships were releas'd, the said Reprizals should immediately have their Course and Effect.

After the said *Van Benningen* had heard this, he would needs have had recourse to another piece of Chicanry; and represented, that in Cases of Reprisals, the Treaty had by the 18th Article provided how they were to be made, and the other Allie ought to have four Months time to be satisfy'd they were legally expos'd to Reprisals; to which Answer was made, that four Months might be just in doubtful Cases, and between private Men and private Men only, but in this Case wherein there's not only a manifest denial of Justice, but a Wrong done by the State it self, his Majesty might very well not take any great Notice of the 18th Article, the States having first formerly broken the 26th; to which was added, 'twas plainly seen what was aim'd at by this Instance for four Months time, it still tending to the first Design, to make my Subjects lose a whole Year of the *India* Voyage.

After all these Agitations and Disputes, the *Sieur Van Benningen* declar'd at last, they would not make War against me for these two Ships, and that he would write to Day to have them forthwith releas'd. After which, he express'd himself as if he desir'd I would acquaint you with this little Incident, in Terms that might recover the said States out of their Fear, that it might have alter'd my good Will towards them. He was told thereon, they ought by an infallible Consequence 'tis conclude to good and sincere, since I would not make use of an Opportunity they themselves had given me by a manifest Infraction of the Treaty to say they first broke it, and this Consideration having great Impression on the *Sieur Van Benningen's* Mind, you may make use of it *a propos*, as also of the departure of my Ambassadors to cross the Sea this Week into which we are now entring.

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The said *Van Beuningen* then desir'd three Things; That I would write to other Courts, and especially to the two Northern Crowns, to remove the Impressions this Incident may have made there on Mens Minds to their Disadvantage, as if I intended to alter my Measures; to which, I agreed.

The Second, that I would no longer delay the Registering in my Parliament, the Regulations for Maritime Affairs contain'd in the Treaty, according to what you told the States from me a Year ago; to which I also agreed.

The Third, that I would Order you to acquaint the States with the Instructions I have given the Ambassadors I send to *England*; he was answer'd, they should be satisfy'd with my assuring them my Intentions were still the same, and still good, and when I had any Secret very much to their Advantage, I cou'd not open my self to them for the Reasons they had often heard.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count D'Estrades : April 3, 1665.

THE King was very well pleas'd with your entire Resignation as to the Voyage to *England*; his Majesty, before he orders you to undertake it, would know how his Ambassadors will be receiv'd as to his Mediation, as also if the Lords the States have sufficiently inform'd you, what they will do as to the Conditions of a Peace, that we may see what hopes there are of your Voyage's succeeding. For you'll perceive his Honour is very much concern'd, that after having already had three Ambassadors there, he does not send a fourth without great Probability that his new Endeavours may procure an Accommodation. In the meantime, you may if you please be ready to be gone on the first Notice, and keep the Secret to your self. for
the

your Lordships, that he cannot give over his Sollicitations in the Name of the King his Master, for the Departure of all the said Ships bought by the said Companies, of which his Majesty has no need if they do not depart with all the Merchandizes and Utensils they are loaden with for the said Companies Service, and the Persons engag'd in it; and particularly those of the two above-mention'd Ships, *The St. John Baptist*, and the *Alette Maria*, which his Majesty so earnestly desires, that the said Ambassador Extraordinary will incessantly continue the Instances he has begun for it in his Majesty's Name, 'till they have produc'd an Effect to his Master's Satisfaction; praying also your Lordships order to the Collage of Admiralty at *Flushing*, not to hinder the Transportation of the Goods and Utensils for Equipping the two Frigates at *Dunkirk*, upon which your Lordships will be pleas'd to make the Reflections the Matter requires, and as these Instances are only for Things just and reasonable desir'd by his Majesty, the said Ambassador ought to have grounds to assure himself, that you will not obstinately persist in the Difficulties you have hitherto made, but resolve to grant the King his Master's request forthwith, and heartily to invite his Majesty thereby to do whatever lies in him to advance the welfare and advantage of this State. Given at the *Hague*, April 3, 1665.

D'ESTRADES

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries : April 8, 1665.

‘**T**HE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, makes Instance to your Lordships, that you will be pleas'd to grant a Licence to a small *French Ship*, call'd *The St. Martin of St. Valery upon Somme*, Burthen forty Tons or thereabouts, *John Beler* Master, to depart from *Rotterdam*, and to that end to give the necessary Orders to the College of Admiralty there, that they may make no difficulty of it : And the said *John Beler* being satisfy'd to go with his Ballast only, since your Lordships permit no Merchandize to be exported ; The said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes you will forthwith expedite the said Orders, that he may not consume himself with needless Expences, by the delays he may meet with in his Departure. Given at the *Hague*, April 8, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries : April 8, 1665.

‘**T**HE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that a Merchant Ship of *Havre de Grace*, call'd *The St. Mary*, burthen 150 Tons or thereabouts, *Nicholas*

• *las Ourfell* Master, bound from *England* to the said
 • Port of *Havre*, was met in her Voyage by a *Dutch*
 • Ship commanded by *Peter Vander Burg* of *Amster-*
 • *dam*, who being fitted out for War, had a particular
 • Commission from your Lordships, and took the said
 • Ship the 29th of *March* last, which he carry'd to
 • *Amsterdam* notwithstanding the Declaration the said
 • *Ourfell* made, that his Ship belong'd to the *French*,
 • that all her Crew were *French*, and the Goods aboard
 • all for account of *French* Merchants; to which in-
 • stead of having any Regard, the said *Vander Burg* on
 • the contrary proceeded to Acts of Violence, and
 • made a Hole in the said Ship; a thing so unjustifiable,
 • that the said Ambassador Extraordinary doubts not
 • the King his Master will think it insufferable, where-
 • fore he's oblig'd to demand of your Lordships speedy
 • Restitution of the said Ship, and all the Goods that
 • were aboard her, when taken, with Damages sustain'd,
 • and to be sustain'd by the concern'd, as also the Pu-
 • nishment of those who took her, and abus'd her a-
 • gainst all manner of Reason; to which, he hopes,
 • from your accusom'd Equity and Prudence, you
 • will readily and without delay comply, when you
 • are inform'd that the said Ship certainly belongs to
 • *French* Owners, that her Crew are *French*, and that
 • the Merchandize with which she was loaden was for
 • account of *French* Merchants, and especially when
 • your Lordships consider that this sort of Treatment
 • has hardly any Difference from that of Enemy to
 • Enemy, and cannot but have very ill Consequences.
 Given at the *Hague*, April 8, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
April 9, 1665.

I Have seen, by the Dispatch your Majesty did me the Honour to write me of the third of this Month, all that pass between Monsieur *de Lionne* and Monsieur *Van Beuningen* touching the seizing the *East-India* Companies Ships : The Lords the States find now they must act in it otherwise than they have hitherto done, and were dispos'd so to do by the Memorial I presented them the third of this Month, shewing them how little the Answer they sent me the Day before would be to your Majesty's Satisfaction.

Since which Monsieur *de Wit* has been with me from the States, to tell me they had receiv'd an Express from Monsieur *Van Beuningen*, notifying to them, there was a Decree of the Council of State founded on two Suppositions ; the first, that 'twas out of a premeditated Design to cross the *East-India* Company of *France*, that they refus'd to let the two Ships go ; and the second, that there are in the Port of *Amsterdam* several Ships greater and fitter for War, than the two your Majesty demands. That to shew your Majesty the States have no Design to obstruct the Establishment of the new Company, they offer'd, before any thing of the said Decree of the 30th of *March* was known, and before 'twas even apprehended, because the States thought such a Proceeding was contrary to the Thirteenth Article of the Treaty, instead of these two Ships, three or four *Pinks* of the same bigness fit to carry 30 or 40 Guns, and twice as much Merchandize ; that if that did not content your Majesty, the Lords the States offer'd further, whatever other Number of Ships, and all things Necessary for settling the Trade of the *India* Companies of *France* you should desire, as also the free Departure of the other Ships with

with their Cargoes: That the Kings of *Spain, Sweden* and *Denmark* may pretend to the same thing, if the fifth Article was to be constru'd as 'twas now done: That there was not a single Ship in the Port of *Amsterdam*, as big as the *St. John Baptist* and *Alette Maria*, nor so proper to be made a Man of War, and those who told the Directors of the Companies there were, had very ill Information; so that the States hope your Majesty will be satisfy'd of the Sincerity of their Intentions, and will not do them so signal a Prejudice in the present Juncture, as not to accept of the offers they make, which are much more for the Advantage of the Trade of the *India Companies of France*; whereas, if they deliver the said two Ships, they will be oblig'd to deliver several others they have in their Fleet belonging to the Kings of *Spain, Sweden* and *Denmark*, whose Ministers already threaten 'em with Reprizals, by the Example of the Decree of the 30th of *March*, which is of so great Consequence, that the States cannot perswade themselves your Majesty has so little Friendship for them, as to take hold of this Conjunction to ruin them, while they are alone to defend themselves against a powerful Enemy, and are depriv'd of the Effect of the fifth Article, by which they pretend your Majesty was to give them a considerable Succour during the first four Months.

I reply'd, I would give your Majesty an account of all he had told me on the Part of the States, that I could assure them your Majesty's Intentions for 'em were good, and instead of fearing to be ruin'd by you in the present Juncture, they might hope for very good Offices.

But then they should by their Conduct oblige your Majesty so to do, you being otherwise inclin'd to it by your Affection for their Interest; we had afterwards some Discourse between him and me, wherein he did not talk on the Part of the States.

He told me, he saw no Disposition on the Side of *England* to enter into a Treaty with the States, nor

even to accept of your Majesty's Mediation; so that he thought they must come to a Battel, and to that end their Fleet would put to Sea by the end of the Month. I found he was very much dejected on this last Incident, as foreseeing some Revolution in the Government of the State; his Enemies talking high against him, saying, 'twas he only who had brought about the Treaty of 1662, that the Danger of being too closely ally'd to *France* was then foreseen, for she would never forget the Peace of *Munster*, as it appear'd by your Majesty's present Behaviour towards them. They add several other ridiculous Sayings, tending to what they aim at; and the Ruin of *Monfieur de Wit* being what they desire most, they are over-joy'd at the Incidents which happen on the side of *France*.

But I must inform your Majesty, I perceive the Design of the *Spanish* and *English* Cabal is to unite, after *Monfieur de Wit*'s ruin'd, to make an Accommodation with *England*, and give such Satisfaction to that King as to several Points, to which as long as the said *Sieur de Wit* has any Credit, he will never consent; your Majesty sees clearer into your Affairs than any one, and will be pleas'd to consider the Consequences, if a Revolution should happen, so as to prevent it in time by your Prudence, for your Majesty may depend upon it, whoever succeeds *Monfieur de Wit* in his Post will be the King of *England*'s Creature, and that Prince will be Master in this Country.

From the Count D'Estrades to Monfieur de Lionne; April 2, 1665.

YOU will see by the King's Dispatch, what pass between *Monfieur de Wit* and me at the Visit he made me on the Part of the States. The Express *Monfieur Van Beuningen* sent hither came two Days before the

the Post. The States were very much surpriz'd at the Decree of the 30th of *March*, of which several Copies have been printed and disperst about the Cities, where we are already look'd upon as declar'd Enemies; and 'twill be a hard matter to efface this ill Impression in the Peoples Minds.

If the *India* Companies find their Account in the offer made by the States, of three or four great *Pinks*, or more, instead of the two Ships, the King would very much oblige them, by letting 'em have them, because 'twould furnish them with Matter to deny the Kings of *Spain*, *Sweden* and *Denmark* the Ships they demand, of which they at this time stand in great need.

As I don't know whether 'tis for the King's Interest to keep the States ally'd to him, so I may perhaps write you a useless thing; but if the King's Affairs require their Alliance to be preserv'd, suffer me to tell you, that, if possible, we should avoid demanding any thing more of 'em, but be contented with the Offer they make the King. For I'm very much afraid that what has been put into the Heads of these People, ever since the beginning of their Quarrel with *England*, may not be driven out when we would have it.

What I observe to have made the strongest Impression on their Minds, is, that the King would ruin them, that he's always finding out some new Pretext to complain of them, by demanding things they cannot agree to.

I know very well all these Discourses will seem ridiculous to you, but I thought I ought not to keep them from you, because you will better than any one distinguish what Judgment is to be made of 'em, and perhaps will not repent of complying a little with these sick Minds, and giving 'em time to come to themselves again, since I cannot sufficiently express to you the Alteration they are now in against us.

I can't tell how my Lords the Ambassadors will find the King of *England* dispos'd to accept the King's Mediation;

diation; but there's advice here he'll refuse it, and I find Monsieur *de Wit* is of that Opinion. It seems to me they are endeavouring to bring on some secret Negotiation with the King of *England*, perhaps the Division that's now between the principal Persons in the Government may produce some Revolution, 'tis very much to be doubted, whether 'twill be for the Advantage of the King's Service.

You had great Reason to answer Monsieur *Van Beuningen* as you did on the last Article of the King's Letter, seeing every thing that's communicated to the Lords the States is kept so little a Secret; as soon as the Discourse between you and the said *Van Beuningen*, with respect to me, was known touching the Voyage to *England*, the *Gazettes* of *Holland* and the *Hague* were full of it next Day, not omitting one Word of what was said.

Being afterwards desir'd by the Chief of the States, that their Children might accompany me thither; I reply'd, I had no Orders from the King about it, that what they heard was only a Thought of Monsieur *Van Beuningen's*, which came to nothing, and was no more talk'd of. This Report is over, and now nothing but that of the Seizing the *Dutch Ships* in *France* is in every ones Mouth.

*From the Lords the States-General of the
Low-Countries to the Most Christian
King: April 9, 1665.*

S I R,

WE believe we shall have no great difficulty to assure your Majesty, 'tis with the utmost Astonishment, and the most sensible Grief, we understood by the last Letters from *France*, that you had order'd

order'd by a Decree of the Council of State, to seize and stop all and every the Ships belonging to the Subjects of this State, that shall be found in the Ports and Roads of your Kingdom. 'Tis five Months since our Minister in Extraordinary came to your Majesty's Court, to represent to you the Acts of Violence and the Hostilities of the *English*; the necessity we lye under to oppose them, the Efforts this State were making to set forth a Fleet in Proportion to the Strength of the Enemy, for the Preservation of the Freedom of Trade, not only for these Provinces but also for all *Europe*, and demand the Succours we might lawfully hope for from you in the present Juncture of Affairs; but instead, Sir, of receiving the Comfort of reaping the Fruit of the Alliance this State has within so few Years renew'd with *France*, we are press'd to divest our selves of the most necessary Means for our Defence and Preservation, not for your Majesty's Service, or the Interest of your Crown; but that of some of your privileged Subjects, who they hear how we endeavour to favour them, will without doubt themselves not think it strange that we cannot resolve to throw away our Arms at the Eve of a Battel, the Event of which may be such, that your Majesty, as well as all the World, would blame us, to have depriv'd our selves of so considerable a Reinforcement without first seeing the Success of it; we are unwilling further to draw on us the Indignation of a King our Ally, whose Friendship is so dear to us, and urge your Majesty to put the said Decree in Execution by seizing the Ships of the Inhabitants of these Provinces, contrary to the formal Words of the 13th Article of the late Treaty, a Copy of which we are oblig'd to annex hereunto, it being very decisive, and should have a great deal of trouble to recover out of our Astonishment, if we did not know your Majesty, who has had the Justice to hear the Complaints of your Subjects, will also have the Goodness to hear the Reasons of your Allies, and the

the Equity not to let a Decree be executed, which is only grounded on Suppositions; the contrary of which is so true, that we assure our selves your Majesty would not maintain a thing whose Principles are erroneous. Your Majesty will e'er this have receiv'd Letters from your Ambassador, which have shewn you that before the Decree of your Council of *March 30*, and even before we could apprehend, there would be one given to the Prejudice of the 13th Article of the late Treaty which we just mention'd, and which we pray your Majesty to examine, with the necessary Application and Reflection, we declar'd, that as we had no design but to preserve the Freedom of the Navigation and Trade of this State, so we would not hinder that of the Subjects of our Allies, since not content with permitting the Necessaries for equipping the two Ships building at *Dunkirk*, to be carry'd thither; which, however, we were not oblig'd to do by our Treaty, we granted the Lord Ambassador more than he demanded, and the *India Companies* could lawfully desire; we are not jealous of their Undertaking, and would not oppose their Design, for instead of the two Ships, the *St. John* and the *Alette Maria*, which are fitter for War than Trade; we promis'd them to get four Fly-boats bought or hir'd in this Country, each of which should be of the same Burthen with one of those Ships, and more proper for Trade than those the Company demand, and were so far from not letting a small Pink of 150 Tons sail, that we expressly declar'd to your Ambassador, we would permit all Pinks to sail which were bought by either of your Companies before the Publication of the general Prohibition; we can't think 'tis possible to give greater Proofs of the sincerity of our Intentions, and our Inclination to have all imaginable complacency for all your Majesty desires, and to accommodate your Subjects, even in incommoding ours: So that the Directors of the *East-India Company of France* were not well inform'd, when they represented

to your Majesty that what we did thro' the indispensable Necessity of a very unhappy Conjunction, was the effect of a premeditated Design, since in the Port of *Amsterdam*, where there are now several Ships of greater Burthen, and built properer for War, belonging to the Subjects of this State, not one of 'em has been seiz'd; we are willing to believe the Directors mistook, when they said there were several Ships of greater Burthen and properer for War, than the *St. John* and the *Aletta Maria*, in the Port of *Amsterdam*; being certain there's not one of that quality, and we did not think of making use of those two in case of Necessity, but for want of others; neither can we imagine they could offer to your Majesty, that there are in the same Port Ships belonging to the Subjects of this State which have not been seiz'd; seeing there's no Ship which was not stop'd by the general Prohibition extending universally to all Ships in the Ports of this State, from which we can say we have not exempted one, unless it be those that belong to your Majesty's Subjects, and came to Trade in these Provinces, as also by way of Dispensation those your Companies have bought here. If it had been done, Sir, with a premeditated Design to incommode the Company which is about being erected in *France*, that we detain'd these two Ships, we should be the first to condemn our selves. But after your Majesty has deign'd to receive the Informations we now give you with all Truth and Sincerity, you will see we have out-done you in answering the Obligation of the Treaty; and have, to please you, agreed for what we in this necessity of our Affairs refuse to all other Princes and States, for the Accommodation of the said Companies; we dare also promise our selves from your Equity, that you will be the first to justify us, since if you do not find Proof enough in what we have been saying, if you are not contented with what we caus'd the Lord Ambassador to be told touching the Cordage and other Tackling to be embark'd at *Zeeland*, with the

Permission

Permission we have given to all Pinks to sail that were bought before the Publication of the general Prohibition, and Power, instead of the two Ships, to cause four of the same Burthen to be bought or hir'd in this Country, and if, at last, the Reasons the *Sieur Van Benningen* has represented to your Majesty are not satisfactory, we offer still to let a greater number of Ships of the same Quality to go, and not only the Ships Ribs, side Planks, and other Necessaries aboard the Ship *St. John*, but also whatever can be found in our Provinces to advance the Trade of the New Company. As for our selves, we demand nothing but to be left what the Law of Nations permits us to retain, and is absolutely necessary for our Defence and Preservation. This, Sir, is an Act of Justice which cannot be refus'd us, by those who are in no wise oblig'd to favour the Arms of this State; wherefore we have the more Reason to hope for it from your Majesty, who discovers not only an Affection for her Prosperity, but also has solemnly promis'd to assist her, and help her against those that shall disturb her Peace and Trade, so that very far from apprehending you would disarm this State in the heat of the War against so powerful an Enemy, we have Grounds to hope you will advise us to apply our selves with Care to whatever may contribute to her Preservation and Safety, since on this Occasion it comprizes that of all her Allies and Friends, and that you will perform the Articles of Succours which we wait for, as the only Remedy against the Disorders with which all Christendom is threaten'd. This we promise our selves Infalibly from your Majesty's Justice and Generosity, and thus we ought not to lengthen out this Letter any more, than to pray to God, Sir, &c. Given at the *Hague* April 9, 1665.

The Superscription was, To the Most Christian King.

From

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: April 10, 1665.*

IN Answer to your Dispatch of the 8th, I am to tell you, the King cannot enough admire at the Obstinacy with which they stand out, with you, against the express Terms of the Treaty; that they are not oblig'd to deliver the two Ships the *St. John Baptist*, and the *Alette Maria*, to our *East-India* Company. Monsieur *Van Beuningen* has this Week presented new Memorials to his Majesty thereon; besides, the Answer the Lords the States have given to yours, and we are now at Work to-reply to all the Reasons contain'd in the States Answer. I find his Majesty persists in demanding the Ships, and expects by the return of the Express Monsieur *Van Beuningen* dispatch'd eight Days ago, to have the infallible News that they are releas'd. As to the Expedient of the Flyboats, he will not hear of it; and in truth, the Answer made us is, as if the King having demanded of the Cantons, his Allies, fifty or sixty good stout *Swissers*, they should reply we'll let you have 100 little Boys. I am now so overwhelm'd with Business, that I can say no more to you, and what I have said has been written in such haste, that I know not what to think of it. I only endeavour to give you the Plan of what is thought here, and to inform you there's nothing chang'd; it lyes on those Gentlemen to consider what they will resolve on for the King's Satisfaction.

From

*From the Lords the States-General of the
United-Provinces of the Low-Countries,
to the Most Christian King : April 11,
1665.*

S I R,

THE Answer we have given to the Memorials presented us by Monsieur the Count *d'Estades*, relating to two Ships, the *St. John Baptist*, and *Allete Maria*, will doubtless have satisfy'd so judicious, so just and generous a King as him with whom we have to do, and particularly when he shall be pleas'd to reflect on the ill Consequences we apprehend from the Explanation of an Article which will be an extream Prejudice to us. But we confess, Sir, we are not satisfy'd our selves that we do not keep to the Letter of the Treaty, if we excuse our selves from parting with two Ships which we may make use of to our Advantage in the present War; we think, however, we owe something more to the Friendship and Affection with which your Majesty and your Predecessors have at all times honour'd this State; and when we consider the Concern you have to desire, not only the Preservation, but even the Prosperity of your most Affectionate and faithful Allies, the Assurances you have been pleas'd to give us of the sincerity of your Intentions, and the means you have to rid us of all the Apprehensions we are in; we think we may pass over all other Considerations, and ought to give up every thing we have into those Hands that have been so beneficial to this State, and can not do us any harm. We stand in need of the Ships your Majesty demands, and they would not be the least of the Fleet we are about to put to Sea; but when we consider 'tis to so good and so great an Allie that we give 'em, and that we shall soon see 'em fight under his Flag for the Justice of our Cause, and for the com-

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mon Interest, not only of your Majesty and this State, but for that also of all *Europe*, we can no longer make any difficulty of letting them go, and we leave them to your Majesty's free and entire Disposition. These are not the only Proofs we would give of our Respect for your Majesty's Person and Interests, and we wish you would daily give us new Opportunities to shew that we are with all imaginable Sincerity, Sir, &c.
Given at the *Hague*, April 11, 1665.

The Superscription was, To the Most Christian King.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, April 15, 1665.

THE Count d'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that *Mathurin Cadon*, Master of a small Ship, call'd the *Mary*, Burthen 45 Tons or thereabouts, having unladen Wine at *Rotterdam*, which he brought from *Bordeaux*, desires to return; but not being able to do it without your Lordships Permission, because of your Prohibition, the said Ambassador Extraordinary prays you to grant it him, and to give the necessary Orders for that Purpose to the College of Admiralty at *Rotterdam*, that they may not molest him in his departure; the said *Cadon* being willing to depart without Goods, since your Lordships do not think fit to have any exported. Given at the *Hague*, April 15, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to Monsieur de Lionne: April 16, 1665.

ALL I have to tell you at present is, that Monsieur *de Wit* is to go Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to the *Texel*, to see the Fleet out; that the *Zealand* and *Maes* Squadrons are there already, and they have now 120 great Ships and 15 Fireships together; there are 10000 old Troops aboard, and 20000 Seamen. *De Ruyter* is to join twenty of the States Men of War at *Cales*, and Convoy the *Turkey* Fleet; he will then have with him 35 stout Ships.

I am to tell you plainly, that Monsieur *de Wit* has his last Stake to play, that he does not think the King desires an Accommodation for them, nor will execute the Treaty; so that all he has to do is to put every thing to the Risk to maintain his Authority, finding he shall be ruin'd if things are spun out to a greater length, and remain any longer in their present Uncertainty: Whereas if the States gain a Battel, his Credit will be strengthen'd, and the People and the Magistrates of the Cities will be for him. This makes him leave the *Hague* to be near the Fleet, and have all the Honour of its putting to Sea. He said Yesterday to one of the States, a Friend of mine, who told him, and represented to him, that he did not act prudently to be out of the way, at a time when *France* might obtain an Accommodation, her Mediation is not for us, if she intended to do us any Kindness, she would have put more Trust in us, than she has yet done; We have now no other Course to take, no other Resource but in our Forces, and therefore a Battel must be ventur'd as soon as may be; We must wait 'till the King will execute the Treaty of himself, for Remonstrances signifie nothing.

I have told you how Affairs stand in this Country, upon which you may make your Reflections, as knowing the King's Interest better than I.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
April 17, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 9th by the Post, and that of the 12th by the return of the *Sieur Van Benningen's* Express. I send you an Answer to the States Letter of the 11th, by which Having left the two Ships to my free and entire Disposal, I now demand them, (as I have otherwise given the said *Van Benningen* to understand) and that they let them depart without any delay, which I desire you to forward, and to sweeten this bitter Potion with all the good Words and Civilities you may say and do on a like Incident; to which purpose you may add, to what I have said in my Letter to the States, that very favourable Inferences may be drawn from my persisting to have the Treaty exactly observ'd, and that I have also written you, that notwithstanding the indispensable necessity of my Subjects to have their Ships, I should have preferr'd the Interest of my Allies to theirs, if I could with the least Reason have believ'd that two Ships, more or less, would be of any Consideration in the decision of the Affair between two Fleets, each of above 150. I have order'd *Lionne* to write you about an Affair wherein the Princess of *Orange* might oblige me, if she is so dispos'd as you say she is to do it.

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From

From the King to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 17, 1665.

MOST dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, we receiv'd your Letter of the 11th of this Month, by the Hands of the *Sieur Van Benningen*, with great Satisfaction; finding you are at last dispos'd to give us Satisfaction, pursuant to your Treaty, as to the departure of the two Ships the *St. John* and *Maria Alaine*, belonging to our Subjects of the *East-India Company*, the effect of which, without any delay, we are now waiting for, according to what we have particularly given the said *Sieur Van Benningen* to understand of our Intentions. In the mean time, we would assure you of two Things; one, that had it not been for the indispensable Necessity of our said Subjects to have their Ships immediately, and that they could not consent to the Offer of the Flyboats without irreparable Damages to their Company, we should on this Occasion have readily dispos'd with the Execution of the 25th Article of the said Treaty in your Favour; the other, that this Incident and all the Contensions it has caus'd, have not in any wise alter'd our good Intentions for your State, nor the full desire we shall always have to procure her Security and Peace by the best Means we shall have in our Power. We pray God to have you, most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederates, in his holy and worthy Keeping. Written at *Paris*, April 17, 1665.

Your good Friend, Allie and Confederate,

De Lionne,

LOUIS.

Supercrib'd,

To our most dear great Friends, Allies and Confederate the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: April 17, 1665.

Monsieur *Van Benningen* had a long Audience of the King the same Day his Express return'd. He forgot nothing that was to be said to get the King to consent to the Offer of the Flyboats, instead of the Companies Ships, but his Majesty persisted to have the said Ships. The Day after a long Memorial was given him, by way of Replication to the Reasons alledged by the Lords the States in their Answers to your Memorials; but I did not think of it time enough to send you a Copy of it, and if you have the Curiosity to see it, you may have it from Monsieur *de Wit* for asking, there being no doubt to be made but the said *Sieur Van Benningen* has sent it him: Moreover, his Majesty could not be satisfy'd that to give over his Claim, or stand by it, would Import any thing as to maintaining Monsieur *de Wit* in his Post, that Minister's Capacity being too great for him to suffer by such an Accident as this; neither does he give more Credit to what was told you, that the Directors of the *East-India-Company* were against offering the Flyboats, attributing both the one and the other to the Cunning and Address of the said *de Wit*, to dispose his Majesty to leave 'em the Ships.

If the Princess of *Orange* has any Design entirely and easily to regain the King's good Graces an Opportunity now offers for her to do it, which if she took hold of his Majesty would take it very kindly; and as a Proof of her Intention to make amends for the Mischief she formerly did this Crown, all she has to do is to make use of her great Credit with the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, to bring that Prince to two Things; one, to ratifie and execute the Treaty of an Accommodation he has made with the Duke of *Newburgh*, and the Bishop of *Munster*, concerning the Ex-

ercise of the three Religions in the Territories of the Succession of *Juliers*, and the Condirectory of the Circle of *Westphalia*; and the second, not to ratifie any other Treaty the said Elector has made with the same Princes of a defensive League for the Circle of *Westphalia*: His Majesty looking upon this new Alliance, as a Means, he thinks might be put in Practice, to begin to Sap the Foundations of that of the *Rhine*. You must, if you please, before you open your self in any thing to the Princess, sound her Inclination, and see whether she really designs to serve the King, and act sincerely. This being done, she must, if possible, be inclin'd to endeavour to effect these two Things, but chiefly the second, as the most important; and the King is not to appear to have any share in it, much less that 'twas his seeking. If she'll undertake it, she has Wit and Industry enough to find out other Reasons, besides those of his Majesty's Interests, to dissuade her Son-in-Law from ratifying the said new League, and the more because it depends only on himself to enter at *Ratisbon* into that of the *Rhine*, which is of quite another Consideration for the Security of the Allies.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 17, 1665.

THE Count D'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, makes Instance to your Lordships, that you will be pleas'd to let the Ships, belonging to the *East-India Company of France*, depart from the Port of *Amsterdam* with their Cargoes, to go to the Isles for the Service of the said Company; as also to permit a Buss, the Inhabitants of *Dunkirk* have bought to send to the Isles, to sail from

from the Port of *Rotterdam* without any Merchandize. Of which the said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes your Lordships will make no difficulty, but on the contrary, will give the necessary Orders to the College of *Amsterdam*, to let the said Company's Ships sail with their Cargoes, and to the College of Admiralty at *Rotterdam* to let the said Buss depart in her Ballast only, mann'd with *French* Mariners, and that you will expedite them so, that the said Ships may take hold of the proper time which now offers for them to sail and make their Voyage, assuring you, the King his Master will take your ready Compliance herewith very kindly. Given at the *Hague*, April 17, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

Memorial from the Count D'Estades, presented to the Lords the States General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 23, 1665.

THE Count d'Estades, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, finding your Lordships have begun so well to give the King Satisfaction as to the two Ships, the *St. John* and the *Alette Maria*, belonging to the *East-India* Company of *France*, by leaving them to the entire and free disposal of his Majesty, hopes you will not stop there, but will of your selves render this Satisfaction compleat, by granting them immediate Permission to depart from the Port of *Amsterdam*, that they may go to *France* without delay; nevertheless, as he has express Orders to make this demand of your Lordships, so he acquits himself of them the more willingly, for that the thing ought to be acceptable to you. Since, besides

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that

' that the finishing this Affair is but the Consequence
 ' and Effect of the Resolution you have already taken;
 ' you cannot better than by this engage his Majesty to
 ' procure for you all the Advantages that may depend
 ' on his good Offices. Your Lordships may also
 ' represent to your selves, that if his Majesty persisted
 ' in the exact Observation of the Treaty, you ought
 ' thence to draw very favourable Inferences, and that
 ' if he could with the least Reason have believ'd that
 ' two Ships, more or less, could be of any Considera-
 ' tion for the decision of an Affair between two Fleets,
 ' each of above 150, he would have preferr'd the In-
 ' terest of his Allies to that of his own Subjects, not-
 ' withstanding the indispensable Necessity they lay un-
 ' der to have their Ships, which was always the true
 ' and just Motive of all the Instances the said Ambas-
 ' sador Extraordinary has made thereon. He therefore
 ' prays your Lordships, in the Name of the King his
 ' Master, that you will be pleas'd without any loss of
 ' time, to give the necessary Orders for the departure
 ' of these two Ships, hoping you will not long let his
 ' Majesty be in his present Impatience to have them,
 ' but oblige him by it, to make you sensible of the
 ' good and sincere Intentions he preserves for this
 ' State. Given at the *Hague*, April 23, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 April 24, 1665.

YOUR last Dispatch of the 16th requiring no An-
 swer, but touching the great Division in the House
 of *Branswick*, on which I have ordered *Lionne* to
 write you my Sentiments; I take Pen in Hand only to
 tell you I receiv'd Yesterday an Express from *London*,
 by which my Ambassadors advise me, the King of
 England

England has accepted of my Mediation, and at their first Audience of Business promis'd to name Commissioners to treat with them. But they take Notice at the same time, they found the *Dutch* Ambassador very ill instructed, without Orders, and very incapable of executing them if he had them; for which Reason the States must come to a speedy Resolution, and declare whether they will let the *Sieur Van Beuningen* go to *England*, and in such case send him forthwith the necessary Orders and Powers, or persist in desiring me to send you Orders to go thither your self.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: April 24, 1665.

THE Difference which happens in the House of *Brunswick* being between two of the King's Allies, his Majesty (nothing further appearing) cannot otherwise concern himself yet than by offering his Mediation to the two Princes to accommodate Matters between them, and so much the more for that all the Princes and States of the Empire, Catholics and Protestants, begin to side with one or t'other, and each has recourse to his Majesty, whose Interest 'tis not that either of the two Parties should be dissatisfy'd with him, because 'twould be then a Party ready form'd for the Empire. The Catholick Duke is to write to his said Majesty, according to our Information, as well as that of *Hanover*; Answer will be return'd to both of them in the Terms beforemention'd, but you have no occasion to explain your self. This Affair is the more delicate, because *Sweden* and *Denmark* will each take a different side; and the King of *Denmark* has already written hither in favour of the Catholick.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries, April 23, 1665.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, represents to your Lordships, that having formerly made several Instances that you would be pleas'd to permit three Ships belonging to the *East-India Company of France*; to wit, the *Peace* of 14 Guns and 24 Men, the *Justice* of 16 Guns and the same number of Seamen, and the *Gentleman* of three Guns and 12 Men, all *French*, to depart from the Port of *Amsterdam*; the three Ships being of the Burthen of 200 or 250 Tons, with their Cargoes, two for the Isles of *America*, and the other for *Rachelle*; and having no Answer thereto, he again prays your Lordships now to grant them that Permission to depart with their Cargoes, to which he hopes you will suffer no delay, since the College of Admiralty at *Amsterdam* has already assur'd him who manages the King's Affairs, and solicited them in behalf of the Company, that on the least Order they should receive from your Lordships they would immediately let them go. The said Ambassador Extraordinary promises himself you will the more willingly do the Company this Favour, because, besides that these three Ships are of small Consequence, you know 'twill be very much to the Satisfaction of the King his Master; his Majesty concerning himself so much in it, and the Inhabitants of the Isles who are in great Want, will receive so much Assistance by it. Given at the *Hague*, April 23, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :

April 30, 1665.

ON the Letter your Majesty did me the Honour to write me the 24th of this Month, I acquainted the Lords the States with the King of *England's* having accepted your Majesty's Mediation, and that it now lyes on them to resolve to send the necessary Orders and Powers to Monsieur *Van Benningen* to go to *England*, to give greater strength to the Negotiation. They seem'd to be very well pleas'd that the Mediation was accepted, but they could not take Monsieur *Van Benningen* from the Post he was in, unless the Succours contain'd in the Treaty were granted by your Majesty, whom they would order to be desir'd to send me thither. I reply'd, that Order would be very usefess, unless they open'd themselves further about the Conditions of Peace than they had yet done. They said they were ready to put every thing in the State 'twas in before the War; that if *de Ruyter* had taken Places belonging to the King of *England*, they would restore them, provided the King of *England* restor'd *New-Holland*.

I observe, they talk very proudly, depending much on their Forces, and the Peoples good Will.

Monsieur *de Wit* is still at the *Texel*, hastning out the Fleet; he's so diligent, that twenty stout Ships have been equipp'd since he was there. They will be ready to put to Sea in six Days time, if the Wind be fair.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: April 30, 1665.

THE Count d'Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, acquaints your Lordships, the King his Master has receiv'd an Express from his Ambassador Extraordinary at London, giving him advice, that the King of Great Britain had accepted of his Mediation, and at their first Audience of Business promis'd to name Commissioners to treat with them: And his Majesty thinking the *Sieur Van Benningen* would give a great deal of Vigour to the Negotiation, the said Ambassador Extraordinary has Orders to propose to your Lordships to come to a speedy Resolution, and declare whether you will send him to England, and in such case to furnish him forthwith with the necessary Orders and Powers to go and treat there. Given at the Hague, April 30, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades.
May 1, 1665.

I Doubt not my Ambassadors Extraordinary, who are in England, let you know, at the same time they wrote me, the Pain and Trouble they are in, and with great Reason, to find they have no Powers from the *Dutch* to begin the Negotiation of an Accommodation; and that the King of Great Britain having at first said, very obligingly, he would appoint Commissioners to treat with them, they had no Proposal to make 'em, which

which they were sure to be justify'd in; nay, thereon they write me, (which is very vexatious) that the *Sieur d'Aubigny* had told them in great Confidence, as being the Chancellor's Opinion; that he could believe but two Things, either that they were come to make a shew of Peace, tho' inwardly they were not for it, or if they had Orders to do it in earnest, they knew what the *Dutch* would do towards it, there being no likelihood I would send my Ambassadors Extraordinary to that Effect, without having had them impow-er'd to make such Proposals as would end the Matter in a few Days: The *Sieur Van Benningen* has been told of all this, but he having made no Overture to me capable of bringing a Peace about in the present State of Affairs (for he talk'd only of a reciprocal Restitution, which probably the *English*, provok'd and exasperated as they now are, will be far from accepting) you must talk warmly to the *Sieur de Wit* to oblige him to tell you positively what first Step my Ambassadors may make towards a Negotiation with hopes of Success, and get out of the Confusion they are in, to find they have nothing to propose after being so hasty in making the Voyage, and 'twould be better if the said *de Wit* would tell you plainly, what they will do in order to effect a good Peace. The *Sieur Van Benningen* would have again propos'd your going to *London*, but we silenc'd him with representing how little consistent it was with my Dignity, after I had sent three Ambassadors to add a fourth; however, the said *Sieur de Wit* may depend upon it, that if he makes any Proposals to you likely to produce a Peace, I shall not scruple to order you to go *London* also immediately.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: May 1, 1665.

SINCE the above written, the King has advice, that the two Ships are not sail'd, but that the Gentlemen at *Amsterdam* continuing more than ever their unfair Dealings in this Affair, cause all the Obstacles they can underhand to hinder the departure of the said Ships, so as to debauch their Crews, and send part of 'em out of the way for Money, and persuade others to enter aboard their Fleet. Monsieur *Van Benningen*, who must have heard something of this Management, told me two Days since, that the two Ships would hardly be able to set Sail, because their Crews were dispers'd, which he would have attributed to the avarice of the Officers, who had not kept their Men aboard. You may imagine I am not to be impos'd on with every Reason they can alledge; I reply'd, the Lords the States would be good Guarants to the King for recovering all the said Crews, and should without loss of time send general and particular Orders on pain of Death, as well to the Officers of the Fleet, as the Men belonging to the said Ships, each in his Place, to endeavour to find out and surrender every Man of the said Crews, and not let one be missing. In the mean time his Majesty charges me to write you, that the Matter very well deserves not only all your Application to get the States to resolve on, and publish this Order, but desires you will go presently after to *Amsterdam*, to surmount by your Authority all these disobliging Shifts, and see the Ships put to Sea as soon as possible, and when all this is done there will be two or three Months time lost for the *East-India* Voyage.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :

May 7, 1665.

I Understood by the Dispatch your Majesty did me the honour to write me, the Confusion the Lords Ambassadors are in *England*, on account of the *Dutch* Ambassadors making no Overtures touching the Proposals of Peace; if Monsieur *de Wit* had been here, I should have talk'd to him warmly as your Majesty order'd me, but he's at the *Texel*, chief of the Plenipotentiaries to see the Fleet furnish'd with every thing Necessary, and let it put to Sea, in which he's so Industrious that he's always going from one Place to another, and one cannot tell where to find him to confer with him.

All I can tell your Majesty thereon from his last Sentiments, is, That whatever has been taken by either Party shall be restor'd, that the Lords the States will make good the Damages done by the *Dutch* to three *English* Ships molested in their Trade in the *Indies*; and for the two Ships *Bonaventure* and *Good Hope*, the said States will refer themselves to your Majesty's Arbitrament; he added before he went, they might lawfully pretend to *Fort St. Andrew*, and another on the River of *Gamba*, but they would part with 'em for Peace sake; and tho' I then told him that was not enough, he did not seem dispos'd to further Compliance. I have let Monsieur *Ghent* and some others of the States know what your Majesty writes me, but there's not one of all that are here, who in Monsieur *de Wit*'s Absence can give an Answer which may be depended on.

The States Fleet will not be ready to put to Sea these ten Days, Monsieur *de Wit* leaves twenty Ships, and takes out their Crews to furnish those that want Men in the *Texel*, by this means there are 66 stout Ships ready, and 30 in *Zealand*, which will put to Sea with

with the first fair Wind; the rest will be equip'd at leisure, and make a Squadron to strengthen the main Fleet in some little time.

*From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : May 8, 1665.*

I Have had a new Conference with Monsieur *Van Benningen*, of which all the fruit was, that I made him still agree, that notwithstanding the States were so nice as not to be willing to send a Minister to *England*, for that it looks like courting a Peace, it was however important that they should do it, it being necessary they should take this Step to strengthen the Ambassador *Van Goch* with Instructions, Powers, and good Advice, and that otherwise, 'twas to be fear'd the King of *England's* accepting his Majesty's Negotiation would have no good Effect; but our Ambassadors would soon return as they went. The said *Sieur Van Benningen* did not only allow it to be necessary, but promis'd to write about it pursuant to what I had said to him, and to back it powerfully with his private Opinion, to which 'twill be convenient for you to join your Instances and good Offices.

*From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 14, 1665.*

I Have acquainted the Lords the States with what your Majesty order'd me; touching their sending a second Ambassador to *England*, to assist the *Sieur Van Goch* in the Negotiation of Peace; they reply'd, they would meet and deliberate thereon, but 'tis certain they'll

they'll come to no Resolution 'till they have had Monsieur de Wit's Advice, who is continually busy'd in getting every thing Necessary for the Fleet to put to Sea.

To inform my self throughly of the Condition of their Fleet, I sent a Friend of mine thither, one who is very experienc'd in Sea Affairs, and has made several Voyages to the *Indies*.

He told me there were but 66 great Ships in the Road of *Texel*, that the greatest Part of 'em have not their Complement of Men; that the *English* are before the said Port with their Van-Guard, consisting of 25 Men of War, commanded by Prince *Rupert*, that the Duke of *York* is with the main Body, consisting of 30 stout Ships, half a League from the Van-Guard, and the Rear-Guard of 10 Ships is half a League from him; that they are often Sailing too and fro to Canonade the Villages on the Coasts; by this means also they hinder the Fleet in the *Texel's* coming out, and that of *Zealand's* joining it; after which I thought it my Duty to speak to my particular Friends, to shew them, 'twould be more for their Interest to comply in some Things, that may bring the *English* to incline to Peace, than carry on a War, when they cannot stir out of their Ports, being hinder'd by the strength and vigor of their Enemies; that this might in time produce very ill Effects in the Peoples Minds, when they found themselves deceiv'd in the hopes which were given 'em, that they should have a Fleet at Sea by the 15th of *April*, stronger than that of the *English*, and even that they should stop up the *Thames* Mouth, and let nothing go in nor come out; that after having laid out so much Money, 'twas to be fear'd, when they saw so little come of all the Promises made the Provinces, that there might be a Revolution.

They reply'd, 'twas true they had not been well-serv'd, and more Industry should have been us'd to have got the Ships Crews compleat, but that 'twould not spoil their Affairs, for they would so well hit the time to get out, and with such considerable Forces, that

That the *English* should find 'twas not so easie as they thought to prescribe 'em Laws, and subject them to their Wills.

That the Lords the States would never consent to an Accommodation, by giving up what belong'd to 'em, but would treat with Equality, Justice and Reason.

That if the Fortune of War obliges 'em to submit to the *English*, it shall be by Necessity, and in such case they shall have the Satisfaction to have fought as much as they could for the Preservation of their Liberties, and yielded only to Force. These being Monsieur de Wit's Friends and of his Party, I found their Sentiments were the same with his, and that they would not comply with the *English* in any thing material, in the mean time they are those who govern the Cities of *Holland*, and Deputies of the Assembly.

'Twere to be wish'd that some ill Success would happen to the States, to make 'em more Supple, and readier to give up some things in order to procure a Peace.

But then if their Losses should be so great, that the Party who are at present uppermost should be ruin'd; 'tis not to be doubted, but a Peace would be made on the *English* Terms, and those who should be settled in the Government depend entirely on them: The Consequences of which your Majesty knows better than any one, and what Methods are proper to be taken to provide against such Accidents.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
May 15, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the seventh, and at the same time another from my Ambassadors in *England*, complaining (and I think with Reason) that the Sieur *Van Benningen* should be so hasty as to press their Departure

parture without their Equipages, and the Lords the States have not, ever since they arriv'd at *London*, furnish'd 'em with any other means to begin the Negotiation, but the same Offers for an Accommodation, which they knew the King of *England* had an hundred Times refus'd, when the *Sieur de Cominges* spoke to him of them. 'Tis not for me to blame them that they did not come to Terms which may produce a Peace, for they ought to know their own Interests, and whether the Continuation of the War is more convenient for them, than the Compliances the *English* desire of them; 'tis enough for me, that they may not complain of me after the loss of a Bartel, for which I should be as sorry as themselves, to advise them, that the Orders they have hitherto sent to the *Sieur Van Goch* are not sufficient to give hopes of an Accommodation in the present State of Affairs. 'Tis a trouble to me, on account of my Concern for their Welfare, that I have such Accounts of the Quality and Strength of their Fleet, that they have but few Ships with Brass Cannon, that they are all very ill mann'd, that the Tail of this Fleet is compos'd, as they tell me, only of very indifferent Boats, which does not very well accord with the Conditions they stand upon; however, they ought to believe, I talk after another rate at *London*; but they being better inform'd there of all Circumstances than I am, their Boldness is extream, and takes away all likelihood of Peace, if God does not take it into his own Hands, or the States do not forward it more, by Proposals more agreeable to the natural Haughtiness of that Nation, which Proposals I should maintain more powerfully, if they were put into my Hands by the Party concern'd.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
May 21, 1665.

I Sent your Majesty last Post the Letter Monsieur *de Wit* wrote me, in answer to the several Instances I have made him to enlarge himself more on the Conditions of Peace, and he and the States are still positive not to make any other, hoping for good Success in the Battel they are resolv'd to give.

Your Majesty will in a little time see the Forces are more considerable than you have been told, they have fourscore Ships in the *Texel* well furnish'd with Men, and all things else, and twenty three in *Zealand*, which are come to the *Gorée*, at the Mouth of the *Meuse*, whence the Junction may be made in four Hours: As to the Cannon the third Part only is Brass in all the Ships, except the Admiral and Vice-Admirals, where all the Guns are Brass.

The Iron Guns are made of *Swedish* Metal which is in Esteem, being of good Proof as well as the Brass, and has the same Quality when it bursts, not to splinter, but cleaves like Brass, for which Reason the States use it, and the Captains of the Ships find Guns made of this Metal as fit for Service as the rest.

Never was greater Resolution seen than is in the Chiefs, and all the Soldiers and Seamen, nor ever greater Union. They are so assur'd of the Victory, that never Men appear'd so gay nor so desirous to come to Action; as soon as the Wind is fair they'll Sail out of the *Texel*, and your Majesty may be certain I write you the Truth, and say nothing 'till I inform'd my self perfectly well of it. I give the same advice to my Lords Ambassadors in *England*, and 'tis not to be expected, that the Haughtiness of the *English*, nor their Pretensions, will make these People ever the more compliant; they are as much set against the *English*, as the *English* are against them, and in case
of

of ill Success have provided for it, having 40 stout Ships which will be ready to put to Sea by the first of July, to supply the Places of such as may be lost, and 11 Millions in Bank to answer unforeseen Occasions.

I have presented a Memorial to the Lords the States, a Copy of which I send your Majesty, on the Affair of *Hereftal*, and that of the *Carmelite* taken at *Tongres*, and carry'd to *Reims*. I shall have no Answer to this Memorial 'till Monsieur *de Wit* has written 'em his Opinion of it; he's still with the Fleet, and will not leave it 'till it puts to Sea.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: May 21, 1665.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, has express Orders from the King his Master to represent to your Lordships, that his Majesty was surpriz'd to hear your Officers at *Maestricht* pretended to make Reprizals, as well on the *Carmelites* as the Inhabitants of *Tongres*, because one of his Majesty's Subjects was carry'd off to be restor'd to the Convent, from which he was debauch'd, and because the King his Master thinks your Lordships could have no such thoughts, unless the Truth had been disguis'd to you, his Majesty would have you rightly inform'd of the Matter, and lets you know the Person in Question is a profess'd Fryar and Priest, who after having apostatiz'd, and led a scandalous Life for some Years, list'd himself in your Lordships Service, in which he staid three Weeks, and then went off of his own accord, and retir'd to *Tongres*, which is in the Sovereignty of the Prince of *Liege*, whence those who had Power and Authority

I i 2

over

over him as the Superior of his Convent, and his own Mother, got him brought off; so that this Proceeding being juridical, and agreeable to the Ordinances of *France*, and in no wise Prejudicial to your Lordships Rights or Authority, his Majesty hopes, since the Sovereign of the Place from whence he was taken cannot complain, you will not resent a thing in which you are not wrong'd, and have no other Interest in it, but to suffer his Majesty to do with his own Subjects, out of your Lordships Territories and Jurisdiction, what he shall think fit for the Preservation of his Authority Royal, and the Peace of his Kingdom, and that you will put an End to a Prosecution, which if continu'd may be of very ill Consequence.

The same Ambassador has also Orders to set before your Lordships the Complaints the Elector of *Cologne* has made to his Majesty, that your Receiver at *Maastricht* does acts of Sovereignty in your Name in the Lordship of *Hereftal*, which has no other Sovereign but his Electoral Highness, as Bishop and Prince of *Liege*; he has shewn that the Territory of *Hereftal* was acquir'd by the Bishop of *Liege*, by Vertue of an Exchange of the Sovereignty of the Territory of *Fraines*, where the Fortress of *Marientburgh* was built in the Year 1546, by the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth, and that the same Territory of *Hereftal* was a Dependency of the Marquisate of *Antwerp*, or the Holy Empire, before *Maastricht* belong'd to the Duke of *Brabant*; and for as much as the King his Master is not only Guarantee by Vertue of the *Pyrenean* Treaty in 1659, of what the said Elector enjoys; but also oblig'd as first of the Allies of the *Rhine* to protect the Princes who compose the Alliance against such as disturb 'em in the Possession of their Rights; his Majesty cannot abandon his Electoral Highness in the Prosecution of his, nor can he think your Lordships, his most ancient and best Allies, would do any thing which is not just,

and

and which might carry him to Resolutions he can never come to without Regret, because they may not bear all the Marks of Affection which he has, and will always have for this State; wherefore the said Ambassador Extraordinary has room to hope your Lordships will give such an Answer to this Memorial, as will shew your Intention is to do what is reasonable, and to live Friendly with the Princes your Neighbours.

The said Ambassador further represents to your Lordships, that *Matthew Kitchen, John Blankenker, Peter and John Nosten, Charles Waterlot, Girard Blankeman, Anthony Klinkert, and Jaspas Nissen*, all Masters of *Bilanders* from *Dunkirk* complain, That the College of Admiralty at *Rotterdam*, where they now are, would exact from them the Freight-Duty, which was never paid by *Dunkirkers* here, and that on the contrary they ought to be free, as the Ships belonging to this State are at *Dunkirk*; and that, if this Innovation be introduc'd, the King his Master will be oblig'd to make the Ships belonging to this State to pay the Freight-Duty at *Dunkirk*, in like manner; and all the said *Bilanders* being ready to depart, and only retarded on this Account, the said Ambassador Extraordinary prays your Lordships to expediate the necessary Orders for their Sailing forthwith, and without Resumption. Given at the *Hague*, May 21, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
May 22, 1665.

YOU will find in my other Dispatch two important Pieces of advice given me by my Ambassadors in *England*, which may be of use to you for the Continuation of your good Conduct. I have nothing to

add, only that you must still cultivate the Disposition you now perceive in Madam the Princess of Orange for my Interests, because 'tis certain she has so great an influence in the Court of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, that if she will heartily make amends for what is past, I may reap great Advantages by it.

Addition in the King's own Hand.

So Order it that I may have the Galiois I have charg'd *Lionne* to write you about.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades.

May 22, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 14th, and the Copy of the Letter you wrote the *Sieur de Wit*, and sent at the same time to my Ambassadors in *England*; they will be able on the spot to make a Judgment whether that Letter will enable 'em to enter upon their Negotiations with any likelihood of Success, which I do not think 'twill. They complain, and with reason, that the Ambassador *Van Goch* would not agree they should offer to yield up *Bonavista* and *St. Andrew* only, tho' the *Sieur de Wit* declar'd to you the Lords the States would deliver up those two Forts to procure a Peace.

I found in the said Ambassador's Dispatch two very important Things, of which I thought necessary to inform you, that you may improve the Advice according to your Prudence; one is, the Negotiation with the Secretary of State; he told them, he thought 'twould be easie to accommodate Matters for what's past, but the difficulty would be to make a Regulation of Trade for the future. I took Occasion from this Discourse to press the *Sieur Van Benningen* to explain himself, or if he had not receiv'd sufficient Instructions thereon, to oblige his Masters to explain themselves how far they are willing to advance towards fixing
such

such a Regulation *Downing* presented sometime ago to the States. To say truth, if the Lords the States do not, as I hope they will, offer reasonable Conditions about Trade, I shall have Reason to tell them 'twill not be very just for 'em to bring me into a War against my Interest, that they may have the sole Trade of the World, and all the Profit, to the Exclusion of all other Nations. I tell you enough, for you to judge how you ought to govern your self herein; this Overture shews plainly the Intentions of the *English*. What's to be negotiated is, about the more, or the less, and to endeavour to bring the Parties to it.

The other is, my Ambassadors think they have found out that the *English* are very much afraid the States will not let their Fleet come forth, judging in this Case the People may alter their Minds, finding they have been put on useless Expences, and that the Success of this Campaign is so little answerable to the Hopes which were given 'em; I have caus'd the *Sieur Van Beunningen* to be inform'd of this, and 'tis found by his Answer, he's of Opinion his Masters ought not to let their Fleet go out, was it not for the Perils de *Ruyter's* Squadron may be in. 'Tis for the States to consider whether *de Ruyter's* Perils ought to weigh down the other Consideration.

*Memorial from Monsieur Van Beunningen,
presented to the Most Christian King:
May 27, 1665.*

THE underwritten Ambassador from the Lords the States-General of the *United-Provinces* to the Most Christian King, doubts not but his Majesty reflecting seriously on what has hitherto happen'd in the Negotiation his Majesty undertook so long since; in the first place, to prevent the War between the King of *England* and the said Lords the States, and

afterwards to put a speedy end to it by a good Peace,
 must acknowledge that the Disposition the said
 Lords the States have been, and still are in, to second
 these good Intentions of his Majesty, is very entire,
 and such as he has no Reason to be dissatisfy'd with.
 The said Lords the States have shewn it in all Occur-
 rences wherein they have been requir'd by his Ma-
 jesty to give Proofs of it, and particularly by their
 readiness to make Proposals in *England* for an Accom-
 modation, proposing on their side such moderate
 Conditions, that they are infinitely below what they
 might justly pretend to, and what his Majesty would
 be oblig'd to procure them by all means possible, in
 case they did pretend to them; in short, such as the
English cannot reject without obliging his Majesty at
 last no longer to defer joining his Forces with those
 of the said Lords the States, to obtain by the way of
 Arms what shall have been refus'd to the good Of-
 fices of Friendship and Peace. 'Tis undeniable that
 the Terms of Accommodation which have been put
 into his Majesty's Ambassadors Hands at *London*, are
 such; since the said Lords the States having thereby
 declar'd they would be contented with the Simple
 Restitution of what had been taken from them, with
 Offers to make a reciprocal one of what has been
 occupy'd by their Orders that belong'd to the *Eng-
 lish* at first, give up, for Peace sake, immense Preten-
 sions to Damages and Reimbursements of the Charges
 of the War, which the notorious Violence and In-
 justice begun and exercis'd by the *English* render
 altogether just, and that his Majesty would be ob-
 lig'd to procure them, since he is engag'd by the
 Fourth Article of the Alliance he has made with the
 Lords the States to do his utmost jointly with them,
 to put an end to the Hostilities, and get Reparation
 for the Wrongs and Injuries they have suffer'd, and
 Reparation is not understood to be made without the
 making good of Damages, of which a Simple Resti-
 tution is in this Case a very small Part.

• Beside,

‘ Beside, the Offer of a reciprocal Restitution shews
‘ the greater Readiness on the Side of the Lords the
‘ States, for that they demand only what was taken
‘ from them in full Peace; may partly, as is said, with-
‘ out the King of *England*’s Orders, so that the *Eng-*
‘ *lish* have no just Title to appropriate it to them-
‘ selves, nor any Pretence to detain it; whereas on
‘ their Part, they offer to restore what they may have
‘ taken by just and necessary Arms, and what conse-
‘ quently belongs to them by Reason, and the Right
‘ of Nations, to make good in part what was due to
‘ them in the whole for the Losses they have sustain’d.
‘ Moreover, ’tis evident that the said King of *Eng-*
‘ *land* not being able to contest the Justice of the Re-
‘ stitution demanded, nor alledge any Right by which
‘ he can pretend to the Lands, Places, and Things ta-
‘ ken by his Orders, and his Subjects, from the said
‘ Lords the States, and their Subjects, ever belong’d to
‘ him, there’s no Justice nor Reason by which he can
‘ demand them to be yielded up to him; for it ought
‘ to be grounded on some Contract which cannot be
‘ alledg’d, or some other Cession which on this Oc-
‘ casion would be insufferable in the Mouth of the
‘ *English*, by whom others have so much suffer’d. His
‘ Majesty is most humbly desir’d to consider the Evi-
‘ dence of so palpable Reason, and finding that the
‘ Accommodation to which the said Lords the States
‘ offer to consent, cannot be charg’d with any Inju-
‘ stice, but what they voluntarily suffer in sacrificing
‘ to the Peace and publick Repose of Christendom, the
‘ most important Part of their just Pretensions; he
‘ will in the end let Justice and the Zeal for the keep-
‘ ing his Royal Word, prevail over all the Considera-
‘ tions which have hitherto depriv’d the said Lords
‘ the States of the Assistance which was due to them
‘ at the beginning of the War by the fifth Article of
‘ the said Alliance. And that his Majesty declaring
‘ openly to the King of *England*, he’s oblig’d to join
‘ his Arms to those of the said Lords the States ’till he
‘ can

• can obtain an equitable Accommodation for them,
 • can and will no longer remain expos'd to the Wrong
 • he does himself to frustrate so long the just In-
 • stances of his Allies founded on his Royal Word,
 • to preserve the King of *England's* Friendship to the
 • prejudice of several Respects, which are the most
 • dear and most essential Interests of great Monarchs,
 • and will press the said King of *England*, by my Lords
 • the Ambassadors at *London* their most earnest Solli-
 • citations, to consent to the said Restitution, in order
 • to bring Matters to a speedy Accommodation, as also
 • to enjoin the said Lords the Ambassadors to strengthen
 • their good Offices with the force of the abovemention'd Declaration founded on the Engagements of
 • the said Alliance,

• 'Tis not to be doubted, but after so much useless
 • Trouble to get out of this War by ways of Modera-
 • tion; this is the only one which remains, or at least
 • the only one by which in making the Peace a thou-
 • sand Prejudices may be obviated, caus'd by an al-
 • most general Opinion which has crept into the Minds
 • of all Nations, and grown stronger and stronger, that
 • his Majesty's Intentions were very far from letting
 • the said Lords the States enjoy on this Occasion the
 • Effects of the said Alliance. The Underwritten does
 • not think it necessary to reply to what the *English*
 • pretend in valuing themselves on their Forces, so as
 • to reject the said Restitution. The Power they may
 • have to keep by Violence what they got by Treache-
 • ry, does not deprive the said Lords the States of
 • their just Pretensions to what belongs to them; they
 • hope God will bless their righteous Arms, and can-
 • not think that in a Cause wherein his Majesty is en-
 • gag'd with them, they ought to abandon the Pro-
 • vinces, Places, and Things which belong to them,
 • only out of Despair that they cannot recover them
 • out of the Hands of those who have occupy'd them,
 • or do themselves Justice otherwise. The *English* do
 • not themselves seem to be fully convinc'd of this
 • Pre-

Presupposition, since they have declin'd the Proposal made by his Majesty's said Ambassadors, to banish the War out of *Europe* at least, and make a Peace within it. Done at *Paris*, May 27, 1665.

Van Beuningen,

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:
May 28, 1665.

THE Wind coming fair, the States Fleet began to weigh Anchor the 22d of this Month at Noon, and the 23d in the Evening they set out to Sea and join'd the *Zealand* Squadron; the whole consists of 112 stout Ships, 15 Fire Ships, and 12 Galiots; besides these, there are 16 great Ships that will be ready by the 15th of *June*, the least of which carries 45 Guns; they have their Complement of Men, and every thing is compleat. Monsieur *de Wit* went with the Admiral ten Leagues to Sea, he summon'd all the great Officers together, and gave them Orders from the Lords the States to seek out the *English* Fleet and fight it. That of the *Dutch* set sail the 24th in the Morning Northward, where they had Advice the Duke of *York* was the 26th and 27th. By Barks arriv'd from several Places, there are Reports that the Fleets are engag'd, and that firing has been heard incessantly; the Success of the Battel is expected to be known every Hour.

I know very well what my Lords the Ambassadors were told of the Apprehension of the *English*, as to the retarding the Fleets sailing, was only a meer Imagination; for I find 'tis the true Design of those that Govern, to secure and establish themselves by the Force and Vigour of their Arms, to shew the King of *England* that since he attack'd them out of Wantonness and Obstinacy, he should meet with more Resistance and less Weakness on their side than he imagin'd, and let
your

your Majesty see, that since they singly maintain such considerable Forces, they are in a Condition to make use of 'em against Sovereign Powers according to the Tenour of the Treaties, and oblige you by it to execute that of 1662; this is the truth of their Resolutions, so that no Consideration of the good of the State, nor no Advice which could be given 'em, had been able to retard the departure of the Fleet.

'Twill be follow'd in the Month of *August* by another of 45 stout Ships when *de Ruyter* returns from *Guiney*. 'Tis said he has taken much by Sea and Land, but that is very uncertain.

As to the Proposal made by the Secretary of State to the Lords Ambassadors who are in *England*, I thought fit to write to Monsieur *de Wit* upon it, that if he would meet me half way between the *Tenel* and the *Hague*, I would come thither, where we might confer about some important Affairs; I shall see by the same means what are his Thoughts on the Regulation of Trade: But to act with some Success, I should be inform'd of the Quality of the Pretensions of the *English* thereon; for if they have nothing more to say than has been alledg'd already, that the *Dutch* have got all the Trade of Christendom, and *England* cannot suffer the Riches and Opulence which are in their Country; they will answer, all Sovereign States are free to Trade, and make most of their Wealth; that if it can be prov'd they have hindred the *English*, or other Nations from trading in Places which ought to be Free for each Sovereign, they are ready to do them Reason; but if they have nothing else to complain of but that the *Dutch* carry on their Trade with more Oeconomy and less Expence than they, and that their People are by that become rich and opulent, 'twoud be Folly in them to comply with them, and part with their Liberty, which they will preserve at the hazard of their Lives and Fortunes.

These are the Sentiments of Monsieur *de Wit* and his Cabal, in several Conferences I have had with 'em on this Matter.

When

When I saw Monsieur de Wir, he told me, the Lords the States would not break off the Peace for the two Forts of St. Andrew and Bonavista. Your Majesty will be pleas'd to remember, he talk'd to me only as from himself, and not on the Part of the State, and that what he said was not communicated to Monsieur Van Goch, nor the States-General, for then it would soon have been known; but 'tis certain, Monsieur de Wir did not say so before he was sure of getting it agreed to, when the Matter came in Question. I find by the Lords the Ambassadors Dispatch, that tho' they were offer'd to the *English*, they believe it would not be enough to conclude a Peace; and all the said de Wir said, that if by giving up the two Forts a Peace could be procur'd, the States would not break it off. What I observe in the present juncture is, that the States have wherewithal to maintain the War two Years, Funds being provided, that they have gone so far without levying any new Impositions, that they are so engag'd at the *English*, that they will never come to any Accommodation but on equal Terms, and such as all the Provinces of which this State consists shall think just.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
May 29, 1665.

I Was very glad to have certain Information by your Dispatch of the 2nd, that the States Fleet was in a better Condition than I was told; nevertheless, I am of the same Opinion still, that if they had staid in their Ports, they would have tri'd the *English* by the Experience, and obtain more surely, and perhaps more speedily, good Conditions of Peace; for I know their Parties fear nothing, either from the States, or such a Resolution. But probably if the Wind has been fair for them to go out, the Die is already flung, and I wish them good Success. You will by my other Letter see what
my

my Sentiments are on the return of the Princess of Orange's Courier, and what pass'd in that Negotiation. The advice of a Peace being privately concluded between Spain and Portugal is entirely false.

From the King to the Count D'Estades:
May 29, 1665.

TIS not true that *l'Esseins*, as is contain'd in the Memorial towards the end, demanded any thing from me of the Duke of *Newburgh*, as to altering the Form, and making a separate Treaty, but to insert in that of the Accommodation, that 'tis also made for Matters of Religion. That is something, but not as much as I had reason to desire; and that you may more particularly see what my Reason is, which you must however never let the Princess Dowager know any thing of, I am to inform you, that the Ministers of the House of *Austria* have a Design to improve this Confederacy of *Westphalia*, so as to get the other Circles of the Empire to follow the Example, and after they have got their Ends to make 'em enter into such a sort of Confederacy between themselves, under the plausible Pretence of the greater Security; from whence two great Inconveniencies may arise; one, that the General Guaranty of the Empire, which *France* and *Sweden* have so many Interests to hinder, and of which they have ruin'd the Negotiation by several Means, as often as the *Germans* have ever thought of it, will thus be insensibly Establish'd; the other, that the House of *Austria* design by it to effect the Circle of *Burgundy's* Confederating with the rest, which, as you may perceive, is what may happen to be most against my Interests.

Without opening your self on this Secret to Madam the Princess Dowager, endeavour to raise in her a Desire to oblige me to the utmost. She has great Credit
in

in the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Court, and if she continues to make use of it, 'twill be easie for her to get him to keep to the Treaties of Accommodation for the Condirectory and Religion, in which he is only concern'd, unless he has the same Thoughts as the *Austrians*, and has promis'd to adhere to them; for as to the Security of the States of *Westphalia*, and that they may not be expos'd to the Miseries they have formerly suffer'd, 'twill be entire and greater 'in the particular Alliance we have renew'd together, and in that of the *Rhine* into which he's since enter'd. You may moreover suggest thereon as from your self, a Consideration which will doubtless make a strong Impression on her Mind, and in the Court of the Elector of *Brandenburgh* if she will further it, which is, that certainly the Duke of *Newburgh* having such Obligations as he has to me, cannot when I shall make him the last Instances refuse me not to ratifie this League, which will by this means be destroy'd and annihilated; which being granted, 'twill be better for the Elector of *Brandenburgh* to be before-hand with the said Duke, and I should owe the principal Obligation to him. This is not only perswasive but convincing. *Van Beuningen* has here made great Complaints as to the Terms of the Memorial you presented the States about the Affair of *Herest* in favour of the Elector of *Cologne*, wherein you declar'd (without, says he, being inform'd of the States Reasons, which he pretends are clear) that I cannot abandon the Elector's Right, as if you had not talk'd to a State that is my Ally as well as he. He was answer'd, the States generally pay so little Deference to my Instances, witness the Affair of *Malta* so long depending, notwithstanding all the Promises which have been made, that in another Matter which might produce great Inconveniences to the States prejudice, they taking very little care how they disoblige the Princes of the Empire, their Nighbours, that you were oblig'd for their own good to talk to 'em as you did.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : May 19, 1665.

THE Lords Ambassadors in *England* will doubtless have acquainted you, that a stop is put to their Negotiation at the first Step, by a Pretension the *English* have started, that the first Proposal the Lords Ambassadors made the King of *England*, *viva voce*, about the Terms of an Accommodation, be given 'em in Writing. This Pretension being not only against common Usage, (witness the manner of Treating at the *Pyrenees* and *Amster*) but against the good and advancement of the Business, for Reasons you will imagine, our Ambassadors presently made a great Difficulty of it, insomuch that the Negotiation seem'd to be knock'd o'the Head. But Monsieur *Van Goch* having afterwards consented to what the King of *England* desir'd, as soon as his Majesty knew of this last Circumstance, he did not think he ought any longer to make a greater Difficulty of it than the Parties themselves, and commanded me to dispatch a Courier with all speed to the Lords Ambassadors (which I did this Morning) with Orders for 'em to give the said Proposal in Writing; to which his Majesty the more readily agreed, because the said King has promis'd to reply to it, and explain himself as to the Conditions of the said Accommodation, which he has given room to hope shall be very Moderate. When the Affair of *Herastal* is spoken of again, if you can soften the Terms which so frighten the States, and let 'em know his Majesty, between his Allies, cannot be but for equal Justice, I think it will be very proper that you do it.

Memo-

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: June 1, 1665.

‘THE Count d’Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that the King his Master desiring to have two Gallies to make use of in the Fleet he’s getting together, and believing your Lordships will think fit that he may buy ’em in *Holland* to be brought afterwards to *France*, his Majesty has order’d him to demand, as he does, Permission for it; of which the said Ambassador Extraordinary hopes your Lordships will make the less Difficulty, for that those Boats are of little Consideration, that some may be found which you make no use of, and that you will herein give the King his Master Satisfaction, because in the Thoughts he now has, you will probably incline to it for your own Interest also. Given at the *Hague*, June 1, 1665.

D’ESTRADES.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: June 2, 1665.

‘THE Count d’Estrades, Ambassador Extraordinary of France, represents to your Lordships, that having formerly made Instances to you, that you would grant Permission to the Ships, the Peace, the

Justice, and the Gentleman, belonging to the West-
 India Company of France, to depart from Amsterdam
 with their Ladings, mention'd in the Petition pre-
 sented for that purpose by the *Sieur de la Garde Be-*
lin, and you having come to a Resolution thereon
 the 23^d of the last Month, in Consequence of a pre-
 ceding one of the eleventh, without giving him since
 any decisive Answer; the said Ambassador Extra-
 ordinary renews his Prayer to your Lordships for
 their Departure, which he hopes you will grant the
 more easily and speedily, for that the said three Ships
 and their Cargoes were bought and paid for before
 your Lordships Prohibitions, that their Crews are
 French, and that you will consider the long Delays
 they may still meet with, will cause great Loss to
 the said Company, and endanger the perishing of the
 said Ships and Goods; besides you cannot make 'em
 of any Service to you in your present Affairs, for
 which Reasons you will be pleas'd to order an
 End to be put to this Matter forthwith, and with-
 out Resumption. The said Ambassador Extraor-
 dinary further prays your Lordships to deter-
 mine, whether the Masters of the *Dunkirk* Bilanders,
 now in the Port of *Rotterdam*, shall pay or shall not
 pay the Freight-Duty which the College of Admi-
 ralty there would begin to exact of them, that they
 may not consume themselves with Expences, while
 they wait for your Determination; and by the Treat-
 ment they shall meet with here, that of the Ships of
 this State may be regulated at *Dunkirk*; as also to
 grant him a speedy and favourable Answer about the
 two Gallies he demanded of you Yesterday, in the
 Name of the King his Master. Given at the *Hague*,
 June 2, 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estades to Monsieur de Lionne: June 4, 1665.

I Send you a Copy of the Letter I receiv'd from the Lords Ambassadors Extraordinary, and the Answer I return'd; I am daily persecuted by all the Deputies of the Cities, touching the Succours promis'd in the fifth Article of the Treaty of 1652. I reply, the King's Will is good, that he's labouring for a Peace, and if they'll have a little Patience they shall be contented. Thus I gain time, and evade their Importunities, which, to tell you the Truth, are a little too frequent. You will by the King's Letter see in what a Condition things are, and what has past between the Bishop of *Straßburg* and me. He went hence this Day, and seem'd to be very well pleas'd with my Reception of him. He highly approv'd of the Answer the Lords the States gave me about the Affair of *Herestah*, and the Prosecution intended against the Inhabitants of *Tongres* upon occasion of the Apostate of the City of *Maestricht*. Two Days ago I entertain'd four of the chief of the States at Dinner, and after having discours'd of several things, I told them they should give the Elector of *Cologne* Satisfaction as to the Restitution of *Rhinbergh*, and that the Place being raz'd could never be any Prejudice them; they reply'd, a Treaty for an Exchange would be sooner effected than for a Surrender, and among other Expedients propos'd a Forest and small Town in the County of *Meurs*, near which the Elector comes to Hunt, and the Countrey of *Herestah*, which belonging all to the Prince of Orange, *Rhinbergh* might be given to him for that; but this being only by way of Discourse, I know not whether any thing will come of it. I mention'd it to the Prince of *Straßburg*, who said the Thought was good, but he question'd whether the Elector and the Chapter would consent to it. You will be pleas'd to write me, if the

King approves that I should push this Affair, in case he Prince of *Strasbourg* informs me the Elector and Chapter like it.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
June 5, 1665.

NOT doubting but my Ambassadors in *England* acquainted you, at the same time that they did me, of the *Sieur Van Goch's* Proceedings, which put a stop to the Negotiation at the first Step they thought they had made in it, I shall say nothing of it, assuring my self you did not fail immediately to do your utmost to get such Orders sent that Minister as will make him alter his Conduct ; the *Sieur Van Beuningen* not knowing how to excuse him here.

I receiv'd your two Dispatches of the 28th, and with Impatience wait to know what was the Effect of the Conference you invited the *Sieur de Wit* to. The general Batrel, which in all likelihood is now giving or given, will shew, whether the States were in the Right or not to let their Fleet go out now, since they had a certain Means in their Hands to make the *English* weary of the War by the Expence of it ; I was very glad to hear the Particulars of what pass between you and the Bishop of *Strasbourg*.

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades : June 5, 1665.

ORders are sent to the Lords Ambassadors to do their utmost to oblige Monsieur *Van Goch* to depart from the Difficulty he raises in letting them give in Writing what he charg'd them to say by word of Mouth ;

Mouth; but in the end, if he will not agree to it, that they give the Proposal sign'd in the Manner ^{the} *Seur Van Goch* will have it, and as he has given them his, *Monfieur Van Benningen* has made preſſing Inſtances to his Maſteſty here for this, and the King was willing to ſatiſſie him in it.

I envy you the Pleaſure you had to ſee and con- verſe a long while with my Lord the Biſhop of *Straſ- burgh*; he's wonderfully pleas'd with you. If he writes you any thing as to the Exchange propos'd you may push it.

We have for ſome Days been in mortal Fears for the Queens Mother's Life; ſhe was ſeiz'd with a very vio- lent Fever, which join'd with her other Deſeaſe, fright- ed us as you may very well imagine; there was great Danger of its ſuddenly flying up to her Head; but an Eriſipele hapning very ſeaſonably, has as it were by a Miracle ſav'd her from this Accident, and by throw- ing all the inward Heat outwards, the Fever dimi- niſh'd, and her Maſteſty now finds her ſelf very well of it; ſo that ſhe has nothing to trouble her but her firſt Diſeaſe, which is indeed very bad and troubleſome, but not without ſeveral Remedies at leaſt to prolong her Maſteſty's Life twenty Years yet. If the earneſt Wiſhes of all Mankind could contribute any thing to- wards it, never Health was bought at a dearer Rate than hers would be.

From the Count D'Eſtrades to Monſieur de Lionne: June 11, 1665.

THEY ſtill think here they can't do better than hazard a Battel, and that if they could make a Peace without, 'would not be ſo laſting, nor ſo ad- van- ageous as rot only after one, but ſeveral Battels; this is ſo ſtrongly imprinted on the Minds of the States,

and all the People, that 'tis to no Purpose to use Arguments against it; they take 'em all as if one was more for the *English* than them, and I think in the present Conjunction 'tis best to let them have their own way, from which 'tis almost impossible to dissuade them: Time will shew whether they did well or ill. In the mean while I am very well assur'd, that if the States get the Victory they will make a Peace with *England* without taking any advantage of it, provided they will enter into a close Friendship with them, and that it be done without the Participation of *France*.

They continue their Complaints of the Treaty's not being executed; 'tis so common in the Cities, that I doubt very much, whether after having let them go so far one can bring 'em back, to engage 'em to do what shall be necessary for the King's Service, when Occasion shall happen for his Majesty to stand in need of 'em. You'll dive farther into this Matter than I can, wherefore I only tell you what's said and done in this Country, leaving it to your Prudence to reflect upon it as you think the thing deserves.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
June 12, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the 4th Instant: You could not Execute with more ability and address, than you did, the Order I sent you to speak again to Madam the Princess of *Orange*, about the Rupture of the Treaty of *Dorset*. I doubt not the Apprehension you have given her of the Duke of *Newburgh's* doing, what I would have the Elector of *Brandenburgh* do on this Occasion, has made a great Impression on her Mind; but when you see her you may add another Consideration which I will hint to you, and which is not of less weight; you may tell her, that supposing, as the Princess of *Orange* assures me, the Elector of *Brandenburgh*

burgh had no thoughts in this Affair of favouring the *Austrians*, he may give me a certain Proof of it; and the more easily, because it cannot do him the least Prejudice imaginable, and the way is this; all the World knows; and Monsieur the Elector will not deny, supposing, as I have said, he does not privately act in favour of the House of *Austria*, that when these three Princes made the three Treaties at *Darstet*, each had a different View for his particular Interest. The Elector of *Brandenburgh* aim'd at the Condiraction of the Circle of *Westphalia*, which was contested with him, and he never was in Possession of. The Duke of *Newburgh* endeavour'd to get out of the Trouble he was in, on account of the Treatment the Catholics met with at *Cleves*; and the Bishop of *Munster*, who had his Lesson from *Vienna*, intended to form a League which might in time destroy or insensibly dissolve that of the *Rhine*. The Elector of *Brandenburgh* and the Duke of *Newburgh* protest now they were far from having any such Intention as the Bishop, they may very fairly prove what they say to be true, by desisting from that third Treaty, which only concerns the new Alliance of the Circle of *Westphalia*; and as they have besides, by the same way, a much greater Security in the League of the *Rhine*, compos'd of two Kings, four Electors, and so many Princes, so the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and the Duke, have provided for all Interests, and got what they both aim'd at, by effecting the two Treaties, of the Condiraction and Religion, without talking any more of the new League. Moreover, as to what Madam the Princess said to you, that I wou'd keep my Friends in dependance upon me, so that they shou'd not look to their own Interests, ev'n in Affairs in which mine is not concern'd, you may reply two Things, one that I cannot have a greater or more considerable Interest in any thing, than in hindering, if possible, the forming of a New League, without any apparent Necessity, which tends to the

Deſtruction of that of the *Rhine*; and that 'tis plain I cannot take a Prince to be my true and ſincere Friend, who without reaping any great Advantage by it, puts a Mearſ into my Enemy's Hands to ruin in time the Alliance of the *Rhine*. The other, that if I was of the Humour *Madam d'Orange* ſays I am, to keep my Friends wholly, and in all things in dependance on me, I ſhou'd not have taken care to renew, as I have done, a Treaty with the Elector of *Brandenburgh* for Affairs within the Empire, not only after I had found out plainly, he would take no Meaſures with me for that of *Poland*; but knowing for certain that he has taken all with the Houſe of *Austria*, who has even given him to hope, that one of his Children, to be bred a Catholick, ſhall be advanc'd to that Crown, and marry one of the Emperor's Siſters; nevertheless, I know with the ſame certainty this Propoſal is only a Bait to amuſe the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and keep him at their Devotion always. For the Court of *Vienna* is not leſs Apprehenſive of the Election of a *French* Prince, than of ſeeing the Power of the Electoral Houſe of *Brandenburgh*, which ſhe already thinks too great, having ſeveral Differences to adjust with her, augmented with a Kingdom. From whence it may be inferr'd, whether I am in Effect ſo little eaſie with my Friends; ſince with all the Knowledge I had of theſe Matters, I was not hinder'd from concluding a Treaty of Alliance with a Prince, who has Correſpondences of that Nature with others, that look on my Proſperity as their moſt eſſential Prejudice.

From the Count D'Eſtrades to the King :

June 18, 1665.

I Cannot yet write your Maſteſty any thing certain of the Revolution that will happen in this Country, by the Loſs of the Battel, *Sunday* and *Monday* I found

Mor.

Monsieur de Wit and his Cabal in a great-Fright; they could not tell what to say to me, when I put 'em in Mind of what I had told 'em in our Conferences concerning the Accidents of this War. . . *Thursday* News came that Vice-Admiral *Tromp*, after the Death of Admiral *Obdam*, that of *Cornart*, Admiral of the *Maese*, and the Flight of the Admiral of *Zealand* with his Squadron, rally'd twelve stout Ships, and made good his Retreat for two Days together against the whole *English* Fleet. . . By favour of the Battel, which he continu'd thus; fourscore and ten Ships are re-enter'd into the *Texel*; he enter'd afterwards himself, having only lost one Ship of the twelve he had with him, and he took one of 48 Guns from the *English*; there were 180 Men kill'd aboard his Ship, and 60 wounded.

When he came into the *Texel*, he told the States Deputies he would lay down his Commission, and serve no more; that of all the Captains that were come in, there were but twelve who had done their Duty; and that any one might judge, whether having been able to fight the *English* Fleet two Days with twelve Ships, the Victory had not been certain, if the others instead of flying had seconded him.

I saw Monsieur de Wit immediately after this News, and found him quite recover'd, and as proud as ever; he said, he was going by the States order to the *Texel*, to carry Rewards to the Captains who had done their Duty, and Chastize the rest; that he had Orders to fit the Fleet out again with all Diligence, and that they were resolv'd to venture a second Battel.

I visited several of the Deputies of the Cities, my Friends, whom I found very much frightened. They said their Allies had abandon'd them, that there was a great Noise in the Assembly, 'would be best to make Peace with the King of *England* on the Terms he prescrib'd them, and restore the Prince of *Orange* to his Offices; but that others, among whom was Monsieur de Wit, were of Opinion to temporize a little, 'till they saw

saw whether your Majesty would perform the Treaty, and to order Monsieur *Van Benningen* to press you thereon: It being time enough after your Majesty's Declaration whether you wou'd or wou'd not, to take other Measures. This Opinion prevail'd. Your Majesty will be pleas'd to let me know your Intentions, and how I shall carry my self in this Conjunction, which is very difficult, and full of Intrigues, the Minds of the People being divided; and to prevent my advancing too much in Answer to the Proposals which may be made me, I most humbly entreat your Majesty to inform me, whether in case the States engage to declare against *Spain* for the Conquest of *Flanders* when the Queen's Right to the Succession happens, you will now declare for the States, because to bring 'em to it will take up Time, and the Deputies of the Cities must be manag'd in Order to't.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: June 24, 1665.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, has Orders from the King his Master to make Instances to your Lordships that you will be pleas'd to permit *Laurence Hubac* to sail from *Holland* with several Things, he has there bought for Equipping of Ships; and he hopes Monsieur *Van Benningen*, who knows how the King desires it, being charg'd to write to your Lordships, and joining his good Offices for it to his own, your Lordships will be dispos'd to give his Majesty chearfully Satisfaction herein. The said Ambassador Extraordinary also prays your Lordships to cause immediate Restitution to be made to *Stephan Guillean*, Merchant
Citi-

• Citizen of *Nants* of a Ship call'd the *Hope*, Burthen
• fifty five Tuns, with a Cargo of Hides and Tal-
• low, belonging to her; which returning to *Nants*
• from *Ireland* was boarded and taken the second of
• *May* near the Isle of *Herdic* at the Mouth of the
• *Loire*, by a *Dutch* Privateer, commanded by *John*
• *Hays* a Native of *Holland*, who brought her and her
• Merchandizes into one of the Ports of this State;
• notwithstanding Declaration was made to him, that
• the said Ship belong'd to the said *Guilleau* a *French-*
• *man*; that her Crew was *French*, and that all the
• Cargo was for Account of the said *Guilleau*: Which
• the said Ambassador Extraordinary has the more
• Reason to expect from your Lordships Equity, for
• that the same Privateer having formerly taken a like
• Prize belonging to a *Frenchman*, 'twas restor'd as soon
• as reclaim'd; and Monsieur *Van Benningen* himself,
• after he had knowledge of the Thing, gave Assu-
• rances, that on the least Instance made to your
• Lordships, you would immediately do Justice here-
• in. Add to this, that the King has already sent Or-
• ders to *Nants* to release a Prisoner, Servant of a *Dutch*
• Merchant, who was thought to be concern'd in fit-
• ting out the said Privateer, and in taking the Prizes.
• The said Ambassador Extraordinary further assuring
• your Lordships, that the Justice you shall herein
• do the said *Guilleau* will be very acceptable to his
• Majesty. Given at the *Hague* the twenty fourth
of *June* 1665.

D'ESTRADES.

From

From the Count D'Estrades to the King:

June 25, 1665.

NO well grounded Judgment is yet to be made, as to the Design of the Lords the States. They expect News from the *Sieur Van Beuningen* next Post, touching the Orders they sent him to demand the Succours contain'd in the Treaty of 1662; and in case of Refusal they are to take new Resolutions. *Monsieur de Wit* demands to go aboard the Fleet, in the Quality of the States Deputy. He propos'd to put Colonels of Foot aboard as Chiefs of Squadrons, whom the Captains of the Men of War shall obey.

'Tis propos'd also to raise 12000 Foot, and 4000 Horse, and accept the Offer the Count *de Waldeck* has made 'em of his Service; and to bring with him 6000 Men, old Troops. The Prince of *Tarente* offers also to raise 4000 Men in the Territories of *Hesse*. Thus they pretend to put their Frontier Places into a good Condition again. Their Garrisons having been almost drain'd, by the Infantry drawn off to put Aboard the Fleet, and into the Maritime Towns. *Monsieur de Wit* has so animated all the States, that they talk of nothing but a second Battel with hopes too of Success, thro' the good Orders they endeavour to give to prevent the late Confusion and Disorder, occasion'd by the Admirals Want of Conduct. The Rumour is, the States have receiv'd Advice from *de Ruyter* that he's returning with great Riches, twenty five Ships are commanded out to join him; but the Place where he is, is kept very secret.

I impatiently wait for your Majesty's Order as to my Conduct; they began to cry out against *France*, for not executing the Treaty: If this shou'd grow hotter I think twou'd be necessary, if your Majesty approves of it, to have something to reply, before
the

the Cabals, contrary to your Majesty's Interests, gain more upon the Peoples good Opinion.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:

June 26, 1665.

Monsieur, the Count d'Estrades,

I Was very much troubled, and you may imagine for what Reasons, to hear the Disadvantage the States Fleet met with in the first Battel that was fought. They may see by the Event 'twas not without Grounds I so often advis'd 'em to keep their Fleet in their Ports, not only to avoid the Blow they have receiv'd, but as a certain Means to oblige the *English* to desire Peace on equitable Terms, by finding themselves expos'd to be a long time at an immense Charge, without hopes of being able to reap any other Fruit by it than a little to incommode their Enemies in their Trade. In which the said States, and in several other Things, in the Course of this Business, have had very little Regard to my Council, though they have not better'd their Affairs by it.

Against which I should have nothing to say were they to be the only Sufferers; but, as they pretend, by Virtue of our Alliance, to draw me into a War, they should either manage themselves better by following my Advice, or even have avoided the War by carrying themselves otherwise; and their failing in both gives me great Cause of Complaint. But I shall however forbear it at this Time, when they have more need of Pity and Encouragement, than of receiving Reproaches for past Things; which consequently cannot be remedy'd. They, for the future, should allow that we must act with more concert in Interests, which they would render common, and indeed would be so was there no Treaty between us. In the mean time they ought to bless God, since the greatest Part of
their

their Subaltern Officers did their Duty so ill, that the *English*, in the Confusion and Disorder the Death of their Chief put their Fleet, did not obtain a total and decisive Victory; and that the Check they have receiv'd, though considerable, will not hinder their being able in a little Time to put their Fleet into as good a Condition as 'twas before. They have only to provide against such ill Accidents for the future, by rewarding and chastizing those who have well or ill done their Duty, which I shall with Pleasure hear they carefully apply themselves to.

The first Thing I did after I was inform'd of the ill Success of the Battel, was to dispatch away an Express to my Ambassadors Extraordinary, in *England*, with order to press the King of *England* more earnestly than ever to a Peace, by forcibly representing to him the Considerations which ought to weigh with him towards it, as much and more after the Gain of a Battel as before the two Fleets engag'd; and setting before him the Inconveniences and Damages that will happen by continuing the War, if by immoderate Demands he drives a State to Despair, which has great Resources, which will never want Money, and has powerful Friends engag'd to defend her, who will not let her perish if she cannot support her self by her proper Forces.

My Ambassadors shall afterwards challenge the Promise the said King made them to give his Answer to the States first Overtures in Writing, and put him in Mind, he promis'd it should contain nothing but reasonable Conditions, shewing him, that by using Moderation on this Occasion he will be extoll'd by the whole World, and further, most particularly oblige me, because he will take from me the Necessity of coming to Resolutions; which I shall ever do with regret on Account of our Friendship, but which will, with respect to me, be indispensable both for my Honour, and my Interest, if he does not facilitate the Conclusion of

a speedy Accommodation, and give me the means of getting out of the *Embarras* I am now in.

All this shall be said, and written to him by Persons to whom I shall explain my self here, and in Terms even stronger than I have us'd now, because I mind what's solid and substantial in Things, more than the setting 'em-off to Advantage.

The *Sieur Van Benningen* was with me the Day before Yesterday, and the Audience I gave him lasted above an Hour; 'twould be superfluous to write you the Detail of it, because all he cou'd say to me for his Master's Service and Advantage will be easily imagin'd by you. And you may besides know it from *Monsieur de Wit*, to whom he'll not fail to give an Account of it, or to the State. Wherefore all I am to tell you is the Answer I made him, that he may not misrepresent it to those with you. In the first Place I granted him what he demanded of me, with respect to the Northern Crowns, and to Morrow I dispatch an *Exprels* to the *Chevalier de Terlon*, who is at *Copenhagen*, with Orders concerning every thing he is to say and do with the said Crowns for the Advantage of the State, at a Juncture when all other Potentates are so much concern'd to prevent their sinking under the Power of *England*; that the latter may not become Mistress of the Sea, and by that means regulate, as she pleases, the Traffick of all other Nations, which wou'd be a common Loss, and of the Consequence that each may easily imagine. The said *Chevalier* shall endeavour to engage those two Kings to join with me, earnestly to perswade Him of *Great Britain* to consent to such equitable Terms of Peace as may be reasonable, of which I don't think he'll make any Difficulty, provided the States on their side contribute what they ought, by putting an end, as they may easily do, and without any great Damage, to the Causes of Dissatisfaction each of those Kings pretends to have against them; which it is of Importance you endeavour to procure by taking care that the said States send the necessary Orders

ders to their Ministers at those Places; that if my good Offices, and those of the said Kings join'd to 'em, have not the Effect I promise my self in *England*, the said Chevalier shall not fail, in case of the necessary Orders and Powers, to take with them other Measures, and enter into other Engagements to bring the *English* by more powerful Ways to what is desir'd, and shall be thought just.

As to the Assurances and Declarations about which the *Sieur Van Benningen* talk'd to me, and earnestly prest me, I reply'd 'twas now more than ever for the States own good, that I should not ruin in a moment by hasty Declarations, all the good hopes I had, and the King of *England* had himself given me, to bring an Accommodation about on reasonable Terms; and that before I took any Step which might either render my Mediation suspected, or give Occasion to those of his Ministers who do not desire Peace to sour him more, 'tis Prudence to see what Answer he'll return to the first Proposals my Ambassadors made him, to which he's engag'd to explain his Intentions clearly, because when they are known all sorts of Measures may be taken with more foundation, without having any thing to charge my self with in failing in any thing which might lead to a *Break*. And for the greater Satisfaction of the States, and to give 'em the greater Confidence, I added the Force of Succours, of which they have at this Juncture so much Occasion, that if 'tis found the King of *Great Britain's* Intentions, as to Peace, are not such as we desired, and he gave Grounds to hope, I wou'd then take such Resolutions as the said States shou'd have no Cause to be dissatisfy'd with.

The said *Van Benningen* earnestly prest me further to order you to say something from me to the States, which might give them Courage, and hinder *Downing's* sowing Divisions among 'em by his Artifices. But as such an Office, to produce the Effect *Van Benningen* wou'd have it, shou'd be rendred publick to all the Provinces,

vinces, which for another Reason would be quite contrary to what I aim at, to do nothing that might destroy the Hopes I have on the Side of *England* to promote and conclude an Accommodation: This Consideration seem'd to me so powerful for the greater good of the State, that I do not think fit to order you to do as the said *Van Benningen* desir'd; and in case you are of Opinion, Decency and Reason absolutely require you do not keep entirely Silent upon an Event of that Concern, which this is that has happen'd to the States, you must weigh all your Words with great Circumspection, having always in view that what you say do not hurt the Negotiation, which will at the same time be carrying on at *London*; that is, that without opening your self in any wise, as to the Orders I have given you about the two Northern Crowns to the States Advantage, you confine your Discourse only to the Testimony and Assurances of my Affection; which would not let me without great Grief hear of the ill Success of their Arms in the first Engagement, and the rest of what you say must relate to the Orders I have sent by Couriers to my Ambassadors, earnestly to press the King of *England* to a good and speedy Accommodation, of which I have great hopes; the said King having assur'd my said Ambassadors, that he would by the Answer he made to the first Proposal, explain his Intentions, for Peace, on Conditions which every body should think Moderate.

I think it of Importance to inform you, what Answer the Sieur *Van Benningen* made here, when he was askt if the States were ready to give Satisfaction to the *Swedes*, touching the Elucidations of the Treaty of *Elbing*, and of what Consequence it would be to the States to grant the Desires of the *Swedes*. The said *Van Benningen* reply'd, The Affair would indeed be of great Consideration, if his Masters could be sure the *Swedes* would perform what they had engag'd to do by Treaties as to the said Elucidations; but as they always have found, and will find, Evasions and Preten-

sions not to accomplish 'em, 'twould be his private Opinion; the States should with a good Grace dispense with a Thing they can never be sure they shall make 'em keep to, and they should ev'n in that gain one Point, to have no more any occasion of Quarrel with them, nor of Dissatisfaction. This Information may serve you, (without exposing the said *Van Beuningen*) to surmount all the Difficulties the States may make to send the necessary Orders to the *Sieur Isbrand*, to content the *Swedes* as to the said Elucidations.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
July 2, 1665.

I Have follow'd the Orders your Majesty did me the Honour to give in your Dispatch of the 26th past, and 'twas very proper, as your Majesty most judiciously observ'd, that I should not give the Lords the States any Memorial on Monsieur *Van Beuningen's* Audience, for it would rather have spoilt, than have advanc'd the Negotiation in *England*.

I only told the President for the Week, who came to me with two Deputies of the States, as soon as the Post came in, to know what your Majesty had written me, that your Majesty was still bent upon procuring Peace between the two States.

That you had to that Effect dispatch'd a Courier to *England* to press that King to hearken to an Accommodation on reasonable Terms, and that if he did not do it, your Majesty would take such Resolutions as the Lords the States should have cause to be contented with; that you on this subject redoubled your good Offices with the Kings of *Denmark* and *Sweden*. They press'd me very much to give 'em a Memorial thereon; I reply'd it was not in Form: That they came to me by the States Order to Discourse me; and, they ought to infer from what I told them, That your Majesty was very well affected to
their

their Interests, since you continu'd to give 'em Assurances of it, notwithstanding the Grounds you had not to be so, considering the little notice they took of your Council and Advice about the Succours, and the whole Course of the War; that 'twas only from my self that I talk'd thus, because your Majesty was too generous to reproach them in the present ill State of their Affairs, but would rather comfort and assist them still with his Councils in every thing that you could, as in exhorting them to send Orders to their Ambassadors to the two Northern Crowns to adjust the Differences they had with them, and particularly *Sweden*, concerning the Project of Elucidations: And as from my self I made use of your Majesty's Information about Monsieur *Van Beuningen's* Proposal, without mentioning him. They seem'd to be very well satisfy'd, and made their Report to the Assembly in the same manner as is above-mention'd.

The same Day I visited the Deputies of the Cities of *Holland*, because the Merchants of *Amsterdam* are most against complying in the Article of Elucidations, and powerfully represented to them what I had said to the President for the Week; they seem'd to me to be very well dispos'd to content the *Swedes*, and, indeed, Orders were this Morning sent to the *Sieur Isbrand* to adjust that Matter, which is the Chief, to the Satisfaction of the Crown of *Sweden*, and to Monsieur *d'Amerongen* in *Denmark*, to accommodate Matters with that King concerning his Pretentions, so that I believe these two Ministers will second your Majesty's good Intentions: They both of 'em speak in Praise of the good Offices the Chevalier *de Terlan* does them, as well in *Sweden* as *Denmark*. I cannot close this Letter without telling your Majesty the fine Stories *Dowing* causes to be spread up and down the Cities; he says, the King of *Sweden* will certainly declare for *England*, that the King his Master has made a League with the King of *Spain*, the House of *Austria*, and several other Princes, into which ev'n the Pope is to

enter; that the Mayor of *London* has already acquainted the King, if he will declare War with *France*, half of their Estates was at his Service to carry it on; that all the People desire it, and that our Ambassadors are look'd upon at *London* as Enemies, and wou'd not stay long there.

Tho' there's nothing likely in what these Emissaries say, it however disturbs the People, and strengthens the *English* Party, which is strong enough to sow Division among the chief Officers of the Fleet, of whom *Tromp*, one of the principal, has quitted his Command, and is come to the *Hague* without Leave, where he has said several things much to the Disadvantage of *Monsieur de Wit*.

His Friends have endeavour'd to bring him to Compliance, and send him back to the Fleet. He is brave, but has very little Judgment, as he has let it appear on this Occasion; for had it not been for this, nothing cou'd have hinder'd his being made Admiral. Several Captains following *Tromp's* Example, talk very high; and instead of setting about Refitting of the Fleet, all *Monsieur de Wit's* Thoughts have been taken up how to regain the Affection of the Officers and Seamen, and prevent a Revolt. I don't believe their Fleet will be in a condition to oppose that of *England* these two Months.

The principal Business now is the Return of *de Ruyter*, who has thirteen Captains with him capable of commanding Fleets, and those are the only Sea-Officers the Lords the States have in their Service who are fit for Flags. There's News, that he left *Martinico*, where he victuall'd for three Months, and clean'd his Ships, the 6th of *May*. In the Account he has sent the States he says, he had taken the Forts of *Cape Verd* and *Cororari*, and had demolish'd them; that he was at the River of *Gamba*, attack'd *Cormiantin* Fort, took it, and plac'd a good Garrison there; That he had the *English* General Prisoner in his Ship; that he had taken eight *English* Ships richly laden, revictuall'd all the

the Places on the *Guiney* Coast, and left the necessary Stores with the *Dutch* General for maintaining the Forts under the Dominion of the States; That from *Guiney* he went to *Barbadoes*, where being discover'd by an *English* Ship, forty Merchant-Ships run ashore; their Guns were taken out, and Batteries rais'd, which incommoded his Fleet very much, and oblig'd him to retire without attacking the said Merchant-Ships. After this he return'd to *Martinico* for want of Water and Provisions, which he took in there, and was very civilly treated by the Governour *Clodore*. From thence he was to go to *New-Holland*, and thence, according to his Orders, to return to his own Country.

In pursuance of the Advice of the Lords the States, receiv'd from *de Ruyter*, they have sent 25 Ships from the *Texel*, under the Command of *Banchert*, to go meet and endeavour to join him: They have also dispatch'd six Galliots, very good Sailors, to meet him, and inform him of every thing from the State, that he may beware of falling into the Hands of the *English*.

Monsieur *de Wit* is still at the *Texel*; the City of *Amsterdam* begins to murmur, and to blame the present Government. At *Leyden* the People threw a Drummer into the River, because he was beating up for Men for the Service of the Lords the States, crying out, *He shou'd beat for the Prince of Orange, and not for Traitors*.

Several Sea-Captains, accompany'd with a great number of Sea-men, getting together, said publickly, *They won'd never go to Sea again, if the Prince of Orange's Flag was not born*.

Tho' Monsieur *de Wit*'s Prudence and Address have appeas'd all these Troubles, and brought the Mutineers to themselves, nevertheless they are still expos'd to new Commotions; for they dare not chastize the Offenders. Your Majesty will make a better Judgment than any one of the ill State of Affairs in this Country: They may in an Instant take such a Turn as is never to be recover'd; for these People are

susceptible of all ill Impressions that are given 'em, and when they are heated, 'tis a hard matter to bring 'em to Temper again. I shall do whatever lies in my Power to keep Matters in an Equality, till your Majesty declares what you resolve to do.

From the Count d' Estrades to the King,
July 5, 1665.

THE Bishop of *Munster* has order'd 500 Horse and 1000 Foot to advance towards the Frontiers of *Guelderland*. The Lords the States have sent Troops thither sufficient to oppose this Enterprize, and have nothing to fear, provided the Princes of *Germany* do not join with him; they are dispos'd to give him Satisfaction, and he presses 'em to it on the part of your Majesty.

The Arbitration between them and the Elector of *Brandenburgh* is agreed upon, and will be sign'd in two Days, the Terms being adjusted. They consent to exchange *Rhinberg* with the Prince of *Orange*, reserving only the Sovereignty, for which they will give Money, to supply the Surplus of what shall be agreed on. But this is a Secret, the States not having yet any Cognizance of it, nor is it time that they shou'd: For the Pretensions of the Elector of *Cologne*, and what the Prince of *Orange's* Council will do must be first known: But 'tis a great matter to have the Consent of the Principal Members of the States; for they will bring over the rest to their Opinion when things are ripe.

As to their Affairs with the Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, they wrote to their Ministers last Post to make up those that are in Dispute to the Satisfaction of the two Kings. The said States are very well pleas'd with the *Chevalier de Terlon's* Conduct, in assisting their Minister all he can to forward their Affairs.

I have

I have inform'd my Lord Bishop of *Stratsburgh* in what Disposition they are here for the Exchange of *Rhinbergh*: I want to know his Sentiments thereon, according to which I shall govern my self.

The Lords the States have only propos'd to raise 12000 Men; and expect to see what Offers the Princes of *Tarente* and Count *Waldeck* will make 'em; but there's nothing resolv'd on, and unless they are press'd by the Fear of a Land-War, I believe they will not augment their Troops.

People are here impatient to know what Answer the King of *England* will make to your Majesty's last Instances to give in his Proposals for the Peace. The States are satisfy'd they'll be very haughty, and that the *English* design even to break with your Majesty. These Impressions, 'tis very likely, come from *Downing*; for I know, while they were spreading about the Cities, he very assiduously visited the Deputies, telling 'em, there was no need of the Mediation of *France* for an Accommodation; that the Business was not so difficult as was thought; and that when *England* and this State were more united, they wou'd be Masters of all Commerce, and let no King have any greater Share in't than they thought fit. These Discourses are very well lik'd here, and there are even some of Monsieur *de Wit's* Friends and Factors who are gain'd entirely by them.

I lose no Time to destroy, as much as I can, these false Notions, by visiting the Deputies, and shewing 'em, 'twou'd be the certain Ruin of this State, for that *England* would infallibly become Mistress of Trade, after she had got the States to leave *France* by a Union contriv'd without her Participation, which wou'd lose 'em the only Assistance they can have against the Enterprizes of *England*, Prettexts for which wou'd be easily found out: That the *English*, by endeavouring to deprive 'em of the only Ally they had who cou'd defend 'em against them, gave no great Signs that their Intentions were good and sincere: That they shou'd rather propose just and reasonable Conditions, on which

your Majesty might procure Peace for both, without any Interest but that of enjoying the Liberty of Commerce; that I thought 'em too wise to give into the Snare that was laid for 'em, and not to see the *English* design'd only to gain 'em over to them, that they might ruin 'em with the more ease. Perhaps they will reflect a little on my Discourse; I observe they are very much dejected, and if they should again suffer any loss at Sea, great Revolutions in the State are to be fear'd. The Equipping of the Fleet goes on slowly; there are Ships and Money enough, but few Men fit to command, and consequently no Order.

Monfieur *de Wit* is still at the *Texel*, and is not suddenly expected at the *Hague*; in the mean while there's Caballing against him in his Absence, which his Presence would in some measure prevent.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades, presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: July 13, 1665.

THE Count *D'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, having made Instances to your Lordships the first of *June* last past, that you would be pleas'd to permit two Galliot's to be bought in this Country, which the King his Master desires, with a design to set out a small Sea force; but having receiv'd new Orders to obtain of your Lordships, that instead of one of the said Galliot's, a *Houckre* may be bought of fourscore Tons or thereabouts; the said Ambassador Extraordinary prays you to consent to it, and hopes with the more Assurance that you will, because, instead of two Galliot's which you have already permitted to be bought, all that's now desir'd is one Galliot only, and a *Houckre* of fourscore

* fourscore Tons or thereabouts. Given at the *Hague*,
July 13, 1665. D'ESTRADES.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
July 10, 1665.

I Receiv'd your Dispatch of the second Instant, and perceiv'd what pass'd with you, when the President for the Week came to visit you, and that you told him all I charg'd you to say by my Dispatch of the 26th past, on the Subject of the Misfortune the States Fleet have met with. In the mean time I am very glad to hear you got them to send positive Orders to the *Sieurs d'Isbrand* and *d'Amerong* to give Satisfaction to the Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmark*; this Precaution being necessary towards the good Success of the *Chevalier Terlon's* Negotiations.

The Truth of what *de Ruyter* has done in *Guiney* is not, as they write me, yet known in *England*; he took every thing on that Coast, but *Cabo Carso* only. 'Tis certain the great Affair of the *United-Provinces* is at present *de Ruyter's* Return. As for *Downing's* Discourse concerning this Crown, 'tis not to be minded; my Ambassadors write me in their last Dispatch, that they were promis'd to have the King of *Great Britain's* Answer next Day to their first Proposal towards a Peace, when I see what it is, I shall doubtless have occasion to write you more at large.

From the Count D'Estrades to the King :
July 16, 1665.

Monsieur *de Wit* return'd from the *Texel* this Morning, I have not seen him, I hear he says he has left fourscore and six Ships ready to put to Sea;
 'twere

'twere to be wish'd he was not so stout, for if the State loses a second Battel, he'll never recover it, but must submit himself to the Discretion of his Enemies. I take notice of a great deal of Division and Dejection in all Mens Minds, but Monsieur de Wit's, who is still very resolute; yet 'tis to be fear'd he'll be at last as much dejected as the rest, if any new Accident should happen, either by the War, or by the People who are wavering, and there cannot at present be any certain dependance made on them.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades:
 July 17, 1665.

I Wrote some Days ago to the Duke of *Newburgh*, to desire him to endeavor to dissuade the Bishop of *Munster* from attempting any thing against the State by way of Action; giving that Prince at the same time to understand by that Duke, that if he did he would soon draw upon himself my Arms in their Defence; but having since been inform'd, that his Treaty with the King of *England* is as good as agreed on, if not already concluded and sign'd, and that the said King, to engage him to act against the said States, promises to furnish him with 400000 Crowns, and 50000 Crowns a Month, as long as he shall continue the War against them, with a particular Obligation to make no Accommodation without including his Interests, and getting him Satisfaction; I am not satisfy'd with the first thing I did, finding the Business more pressing than I thought it was; but resolve to send a Person to him directly, who shall depart in two or three Days, to declare to him, if he attacks the States he shall find my Forces at their Head to defend them. Besides which, I the Day before Yesterday dispatch'd a Courier to my Ambassadors in *England*, to order them to make the same Declaration from me to the King of *Great Britain*, that he

he may know in time that his Money may be more advantageously laid out, than in arming the said Bishop, and putting him on Action; and not thinking all this enough, I have caus'd the Marquis *de la Fuentes* to be told, I shall have occasion for Passage through the King his Master's Territories, to send an Army to the Assistance of the *United-Provinces*.

You have a fair Opportunity to improve this Proceeding of mine with the States, by shewing how full of Affection and Sincerity it is, to make Steps ev'n before requir'd to do it by them, on Information I had receiv'd of the said Bishop's Projects, tho' he's one of my Allies of the *Rhine* League; but as I was willing without deliberating a Moment to make such powerful Declarations as I have been mentioning, which engage me so far that I can't help executing them, if that Prince goes any farther notwithstanding towards accomplishing the Treaty he has made with the King of *Great Britain*; so 'tis also just, and besides for the good of the States, in order to my having the more means of defending them, that I promise him I will get Satisfaction for him from them touching the Affair of *Borkelo*. The *Sieur Van Benningen* has already said here I might promise it him, and I shall give such Orders to my Envoy; but 'twill be proper for you to get what he has said confirm'd where you are. This Business concerns only a private Difference between the said Bishop and the Count *de Stirum*, whom the Province of *Guelderland* protects, in which the other Provinces have no Interest, and 'tis, properly speaking, nothing but a Law Suit, which ought not to cause a War, that may in the Sequel involve other Provinces of the Empire in it, for greater or like Differences depending between them and the States; besides the World is enough convinc'd, that the Bishop of *Munster* has Reason on his Side, and that his Bishoprick is aggriev'd in this Affair of *Borkelo*.

The

The States should lose no time to forward the Negotiation of the Exchange of *Rhinberg*, that they may be secure of the Elector of *Cologne's* not joining, whatever happens, with the Bishop of *Munster*.

You will have seen the Answer the King of *England* has at last given my Ambassadors, and the Reason he alledges for not explaining his Intentions as to the Conditions of the Peace, which he had given 'em hopes he would do. The *Sieur Van Beuningen* has demanded Audience of me thereon, and I have appointed it for to morrow; in the mean time it would be necessary for the States to tell you plainly, what they will comply with in order to a Peace, and on what terms they are at this Juncture dispos'd to make it, to the end that I may manage them for them while my Ambassadors are yet in *England*, not letting the Overture seem to come from them, but from me only, out of my Desire for an Accommodation, promising if the King of *England* will consent to 'em, that I will also get the States to consent; by this means 'twill be soon seen, whether Peace can be procur'd or not, and the States will suffer no Prejudice by my promising before-hand to get their Consent. The King of *England* (if the Negotiation breaks of) will have no just Occasion to complain of me, whatever Resolution I may afterwards come to for the Advantage of the States; wherefore do your utmost to get out of them the most they will yield to, and assure them, I will make no other use of the Information they shall give me, than shall be for their Profit and Satisfaction.

Memorial from the Count D'Estrades presented to the Lords the States-General of the United-Provinces of the Low-Countries: July 22, 1665.

THE Count *d'Estrades*, Ambassador Extraordinary of *France*, is oblig'd to acquaint your Lordships, That the King his Master's Affection for your Interests will not suffer him to let the Enterprises practis'd against this State to take Effect, for which Reason he endeavours to find out the most suitable methods to destroy them, or avert them; to which end his Majesty has not only caus'd it to be insinuated to the Bishop of *Munster*, that if he premeditated any ill Design or Action against this State, he wou'd powerfully oppose its Execution; but having since heard of the Treaty the said Bishop has made with the King of *Great-Britain*, and that the thing presses more than he imagin'd, he has sent directly to him a Person on purpose to declare to him, That if he attack'd your Lordships Territories, he shou'd find his Forces at your Head to defend you; and has dispatch'd a Courier to his Ambassadors Extraordinary in *England* to desire the King of *Great-Britain*, in his Name, to hearken to a Peace, and let him know in time, that he may employ his Mony to more Advantage, than by arming the said Bishop, and putting him upon Action; and his Majesty, not thinking all this enough, has already caus'd the Marquis *de la Fuentes* to be spoken to about the Passage he shall have occasion for thro' his Master's Territories, to send an Army to your Lordships Assistance. You will not have much Difficulty to believe, upon this, that his Majesty's Proceedings cannot be more sincere and cordial, since without staying to be requir'd, he has of his own proper motion, on the Knowledge only of the said Bishop's Projects,

pre-

• prevented your Demands to repel the Dangers you are
 • threaten'd with, without having any Regard to the
 • Bishop's being one of his Allies of the League of
 • the *Rhine*; but as his Majesty has been willing, with-
 • out deliberating a moment, to make such powerful
 • Declarations as these, and has engag'd himself so,
 • that he cannot help executing them, if the said Bi-
 • shop, notwithstanding it, proceeds to accomplish the
 • Treaty made with the King of *Great-Britain*; your
 • Lordships will also imagine, 'tis bo'h just, and for
 • your own Good, that his Majesty, to have the means
 • to restrain the said Bishop, may promise him, that
 • he will get Satisfaction from your Lordships touch-
 • ing the Affair of *Borkelo*, it relating only to a private
 • Difference between the said Bishop and the Count
 • *de Stirum*, whom the Province of *Guelderland* pro-
 • tects, in which the other Provinces are not con-
 • cern'd, and 'tis, properly speaking, a Law-Suit, that
 • ought not to cause a War, in which other Princes of
 • the Empire may join about greater Differences which
 • are depending between them and your Lordships:
 • Besides that, every one is convinc'd enough that that
 • Bishop has Right on his Side, and that his Bishoprick
 • suffers notoriously in the Affair of *Borkelo*. His Ma-
 • jesty doubts not also but your Lordships will think
 • it proper to forward the Negotiation of the Ex-
 • change of *Rhinberg*, to which you have already some
 • Disposition, that, happen what will, you may be se-
 • cure of the Elector of *Cologne's* not joining with the
 • said Bishop; and that his Majesty wou'd suggest to
 • your Lordships, that you early set about strength-
 • ning your Land-Army with new Levies in *Ger-*
 • *many*, that you may have a Body ready to join his
 • Majesty, in case of an Attack; if your own Pru-
 • dence and good Policy do not advise you of the Ne-
 • cessity of this Precaution, which will not be use-
 • less even to dispose the *Englsb* the sooner to hearken
 • to an Accommodation; this wou'd be the true
 • means to put a Stop to all Misfortunes in their Source,
 • which

‘ which is what the King his Master earnestly desires,
‘ and to which he endeavours to contribute as far as it
‘ lies in his Power.

D'ESTRADES.

From the Count D' Estrades to the King :
July 23, 1665.

YOUR Majesty's Dispatch, which you did me the Honour to write me the 17th Instant, has very much recover'd the States out of the Fright they were in about the Bishop of *Munster's* Treaty. I have assur'd them your Majesty was negotiating, as well with the Duke of *Newburgh*, as the Marquis de *la Faentes* for the Passage of his Troops, and with the King of *England*, to divert him from the intended Treaty, and by shewing them, that your Majesty inclining to give them Proofs of your Affection on this Occasion, without being requir'd to do it by them, 'twas necessary they shou'd come to a speedy Resolution to content the said Bishop about *Borkelo*, and terminate the Affair of *Rhinberg*, and the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Pretensions for his Liquidation, as also the Restitution of the Estates belonging to the Order of *Maltha*.

They answer'd, That as to the Affair of *Borkelo*, 'twas not just, nor a private Affair, as your Majesty imagin'd, but of the Province of *Guelderland*, which was most concern'd in it; for as to indemnifying the Count de *Stirum*, that wou'd be very easie; that by the Treaty of Union the Provinces were oblig'd to support each other, and Orders were sent to Monsieur *Van Beuningen* to let your Majesty see the Papers of the Process, which will inform you of the Truth of the Fact. That all possible Dispatch shall be given to the accommodating the Difference with the Elector of *Brandenburgh*; that the Affair of *Maltha* was at a Stand by the Treaty of Union, which wou'd not let the

the other Provinces force that of *Dirrecht* to consent to the Accommodation all the rest have agreed to.

As to the Exchange of *Rhinberg*, the Lords the States were willing to treat with the Elector of *Cologne*, and waited for the said Elector's Proposals. I have written to the Bishop of *Stratsburg* about it, and told him, Haste shou'd be made not to lose the present Con-juncture, but that he shou'd send a Power to some one to treat, informing him thoroughly of the Conditions pretended to.

Monsieur de Wit came afterwards to visit me, and re-presented to me the true State of their Affairs, which are in such an Extremity, that the only Recourse they have is to hazard a Battel; adding, if they stay in their Ports, two things were to be fear'd, one of which would undoubtedly cause the Towns to revolt, to demand Peace of the King of *England* on what Conditions he pleas'd, and restore his Predecessor's Offices to the Prince, and turn out such as are now in the Government.

Their Hope is in the Return of *de Ruyter*, the *Smyrna* Fleet, and that from the *Indies*: That if the Sea was left free to the *English*, 'twas impossible to avoid the Loss of one of those Fleets, and perhaps of all three, which wou'd put 'em backward so much, that they wou'd never be able to get up again; so that 'twas his Opinion, their Fleet shou'd put out, especially since in twelve Days time it wou'd consist of 106 stout Ships; that they had fill'd the vacant Posts with good and experienc'd Officers; that the Chastizements which had been made wou'd make the rest do their Duty the better; and that, in fine, there was Ground, from all the Precautions the States had taken, to hope for good Success: But the greatest Reason he had to give this Advice was, that the Lords the States had nothing else to trust to. I reply'd, I was sorry to find their Affairs were in so ill a Condition; that I thought the best thing they cou'd do wou'd be to tell his Majesty plainly how far they wou'd comply for a Peace; that I

was,

was order'd by your Majesty to tell him, the Overtures shou'd not come as from them, but only as from your Majesty, without the States suffering any Prejudice by your advancing to what they will consent.

He lik'd mightily this Proposal, and told me, Your Majesty might offer from your self the Cession of Fort *St. Andrew* and the Isle *Bonavista*, two Places whence the *Amsterdam* Company fetch'd a great deal of Gold, both very considerable for Commerce; that Fort *Cormantin*, which *de Ruyter* has taken, shall be given in Exchange for *Cabo Corso*, and tho' General *Valkenburgh* shou'd have retaken *Cabo Corso*, they wou'd nevertheless surrender *Cormantin*; that they wou'd yield up the Forts, Towns, and Habitations of *Nova Belgia*, if the Isle of *Poloron* were yielded to the States, of which they are still in Possession, and demand it only to have a Pretext to get the Company's Consent, the rather because the Isle of *Poloron* is quite grubb'd up, the Cinamon and Nutmeg-Trees cut down; so that the Isle will never be worth any thing, of which the *English* are very well inform'd, having been often on the Spot. Thus, properly speaking, 'tis to yield up *Nova Belgia* for nothing, a Place which has cost 'em so much Money, a cultivated Country, where a great Trade is driven in all sorts of Plenty, and being contiguous with *New-England*, will be of great Advantage to them.

But if the King of *England* shou'd further demand the Tenth of the Fishery, or any other Contribution in *Europe*, or that the States take *English* Passes to go thro' the Channel, or any other Mark of his being King of the Sea, or the restoring the Prince of *Orange* to his Predecessor's Offices, the States wou'd never consent to any of these Conditions, but would in such case resolve to hazard all first.

After having try'd to bring him to greater Compliances, and not been able to do it, I told him, 'twas proper he should give the States an Account of our Discourse, and tell me from them all he had told me

as from himself, that I may write your Majesty of it with more Force.

Pursuant to the Advice your Majesty gives the States to make new Levies in *Germany*, they have sent to the Princes of *Lunenburgh* to hire 6000 Men of them, all old Troops. They recruit their Cavalry and Infantry, and will augment their Army with 8000 Men. In the mean time they have sent 50 Companies of Foot to reinforce the Places on the Frontiers of *Westphalia*.

The States have order'd one *Oudart* to be arrested. He manages the King of *England's* Affairs under *Downing*. All his Papers are seiz'd, which was done upon Advice that the King of *England* had arrested *Camerus*, Secretary to the *Dutch* Embassy. 'Twas debated, whether *Downing* should not be arrested, and it had like to have been carry'd for it. He has been busie with the principal Members of the Cities, to demand a General Assembly, which wou'd, without doubt, be the Ruin of the Pensionary, because he pretends to prove 'twas he only was the principal Cause of the War, which he cannot do in the Assembly of *Holland*, for that he's Master there, as well as of the Deputies of the States-General for the other Provinces. However, *Downing's* Faction is so strong, that if your Majesty had not appear'd ready to protect the States at the time when you did, the said *Downing* had prepar'd all things for the last Blow, by shewing plainly this State would be ruin'd by the Union of the Princes of *Germany* with the King of *England*, which their only way to avoid was to turn out the said *de Wit*, and to prosecute him as the Disturber of the publick Peace. His Measures are now broken, and your Majesty's Declaration in favour of the States has enabled the said *de Wit* to destroy *Downing's* Cabals.

To inform your Majesty of the true State of Affairs in this Country, I must tell you, the *Sieur de Wit* not being secure in the Disposition of the People, labours with his Cabal to get a Commission for him to go
Aboard

Aboard the Fleet, thinking he cannot safely stay here, seeing he has so many Enemies, as the Cabals of the House of Orange, including that of the Elector of Brandenburg, and those of England and Spain. His own is the only one for him, and 'twou'd be strong enough for all the others, if your Majesty wou'd once declare your self entirely; but that not being done, he says, he'll imitate the Conduct of the late Cardinal, who having the Princes and Parliament of Paris against him, took on him the Command of the Army at *Rhetel*, hoping to re-establish his Affairs by his good Success, or, at least, that he shou'd not be prosecuted so warmly. This good Success was not useless to him, for he, by that Action, shew'd his Zeal and Application for your Majesty's Service, venturing his Person and all he had in the World; and tho' he was oblig'd to retire, 'twas with Honour, and the Approbation of his Friends, and his Return was the Reward of his Actions, by the Confidence in and Friendship for him demonstrated by your Majesty as long as he liv'd. I know the *Sieur de Wit* said all this at a Consultation with his Friends, and that by this Example he solicites for a Commission to go Aboard the Fleet, saying, if he was so happy as to gain a Battel, he shou'd do his Country a great Service, and if after that he was disgrac'd, his Retreat wou'd be honourable, and perhaps the Necessity of Affairs wou'd require his being recall'd to serve the State, which he wou'd be always ready to do.

From the King to the Count D'Estrades :
July 24, 1665.

THE *Sieur Van Benningen* has discours'd me at large on the present State of Affairs; I told him, that next Day after to Morrow at farthest I would give him my self, or order *Lionne* to give him my Answer. I will tell you beforehand 'twill be very favourable to the States, and very near what they can themselves desire, which you may let the *Sieur de Wit* know. The only thing I now demand of 'em is, that they will not let their Fleet go out but in concert with me; for 'tis not just, that since I enter into all their Interests, as I'm dispos'd to do, tho' there's so much to be said against it by their way of Proceeding with me, which might have been a lawful Excuse for me to have forborn it, they shou'd take any important Resolutions without me, the ill Success of which (when I am engag'd further) will turn against me. They may besides consider, I in this desire nothing of 'em but what I know undoubtedly to be for their greatest Good; nay, you may declare to the said *de Wit*, that if they let their Fleet go out at this Juncture, and they do not promise me to defer it till the Matter has been better concerted between us, I shall on my side be oblig'd to suspend the Effects of my Good-will, and the Share I'm willing to have in their Concerns. 'Tis necessary also that you endeavour to have real and effective Orders forthwith sent to the *Sieur Amerongen* and *Isbrand* to give the two Northern Crowns Satisfaction in their Demands. I have order'd *Lionne* to write you a new and very pressing Reason for it.

From

From Monsieur de Lionne to the Count
D'Estrades: July 24, 1665.

TO explain to you the last Lines of the King's Letter, I must tell you, the Resident of the King of Denmark has communicated a great Secret to the King on the Part of his Master, that he's very much press'd by the Ministers of *England* and *Sweden* to conclude a Tripple-Alliance between the three Kingdoms, in which they shall promise to make no Accommodation with the *Dutch*, tho' there shou'd be but that one Point to be adjusted, without obliging 'em to give Satisfaction to the said King, as well touching the Liquidations he pretends to of Debts contracted between 'em, which is the principal Point, and about which you ought to get Orders sent, pursuant to the King's Letter, as to hinder the *Hollanders* continuing for the future the same Frauds, which have ruin'd all the Revenue of his Tolls.

The said King complains, That when he would enter on the Affair of the Liquidations, which he has chiefly at Heart, with the *Sieur de Amerong*, the latter declar'd, he had no Orders nor Powers to demand any thing but Succours, and the revoking his Order relating to Seamen his Subjects, whom he has recall'd; and that it was not to be expected his Superiors wou'd send him any Powers touching the said Liquidations. In the mean time, you see how important it is to ward off the Blow of the Tripple-Alliance between the three Kingdoms, and how necessary also it is to give the *Swedes* immediate Satisfaction as to the Elucidations of *Elbing*; otherwise one may say, that the States would, against their own Interest, draw the King into a Business ill concerted, which his Majesty will not easily be prevail'd upon to do, and they wou'd besides be the first Sufferers by it.

The

The King has seen the Elector of *Brandenburgh's* Memorial, and all we can say is, that he wou'd persuade us, as the late Monsieur *de Bouillon* said, that a *Quartan-Ague* is good for us. His Majesty understands his Interests too well not to see how prejudicial the new League which is forming in the Empire will be to him: But since the Elector, properly speaking, has answer'd in the Negative, and there is nothing to be done with him towards diverting this Blow, we must at least make use of his Offer, not to ratify the Treaty suddenly, and amuse him with other Negotiations and Replies to his Memorial, to gain time to press the Duke of *Newburgh* earnestly, and engage him not to give his Ratification. This is all the King thinks can be done in it, considering the Elector is so little dispos'd to consent to break off this new Alliance.

The Bishop of *Munster's* Design to attack the States at the Instigation of the King of *England* might furnish us with a new Reason, which has not been mention'd hitherto, to continue the Negotiation with the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and keep him from concluding this League: For you may represent to him, that the King, by defending the States, as you resolve to do, against the said Bishop, it may very probably happen that this Prince may be soon reduc'd to the Necessity of defending himself, instead of attacking others; in which case the Elector of *Brandenburgh* having ratify'd the Treaty, would be oblig'd, when he did not think of it, and without any Necessity, to involve himself in a troublesome Business on account of the Succours he is to give him.

From

From the Count D'Estades to the King;
July 30, 1665.

I Discours'd the *Sieur de Wit*, as your Majesty order'd me to do in the Dispatch you did me the Honour to write me of the 24th Instant. He told me, The *Sieur Van Benningen* was order'd to shew your Majesty, that neither the King of *Denmark's* Demands of Liquidation, nor his Complaints about the Tolls, were just; and the States doubt not your Majesty will approve of their Proceedings and Conduct on this Occasion; and that Monsieur *d'Amerongen* has Orders to give him all reasonable Satisfaction.

As to the Dispute they have with the King of *Sweden* about the Elucidations of *Elbing*, *Cape Corse*, and the Ship *Christina*, they had order'd Monsieur *d'Isbrand* to terminate it to the Satisfaction of that Crown.

That since your Majesty desires their Fleet may not go out but in concert with you, it shou'd stay till your Majesty was inform'd of the indispensable Reasons they had for its putting to Sea, to oppose that of *England*, which he told me last Post, and the *Sieur Van Benningen* had Orders to represent them still to your Majesty. He added, 'twas of such Importance to save *de Ruyter* and the *India* Fleet, that they must venture all the States Forces to do it, and the only way for it was to go out. The States have receiv'd Information, that these two Fleets are coming North-about; however, they will wait for your Majesty's Answer to what the *Sieur Van Benningen* is to represent to you thereon.

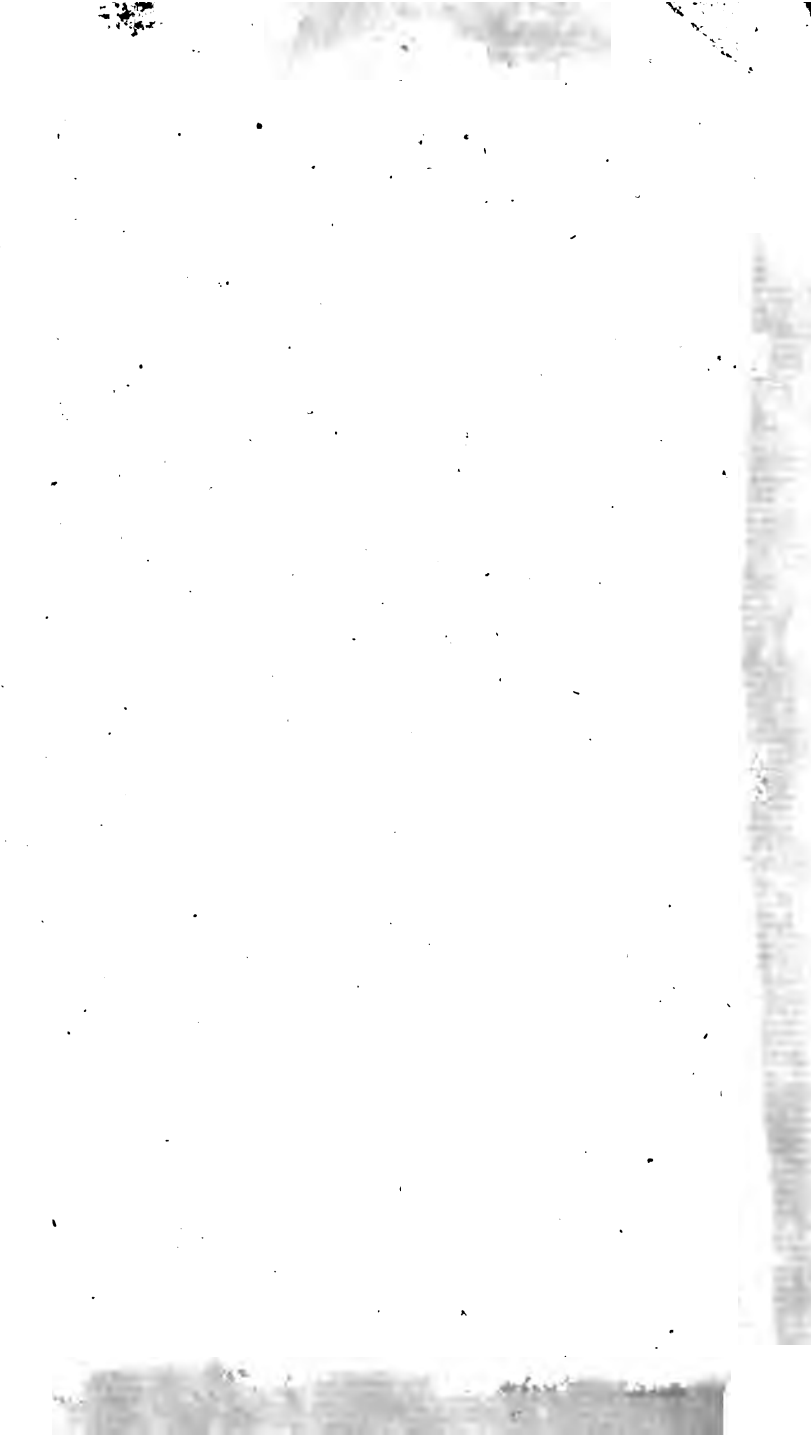
The said *Sieur de Wit* is to go Aboard the Fleet with the other two Deputies of the States, to act according as they shall think proper. The People murmur very much against him and his Party; and if *de Ruyter* and the *India* Fleet do not arrive happily in this Country, the Government will be quite chang'd.

The

The last Memorial I presented, according to your Majesty's Orders, has put a Stop to every thing, in hopes you will declare against *England*, which will make Affairs have another Face.

One cannot write your Majesty with any Certainty what will happen in the present Disposition of Men's Minds, there's every Day such visible Alterations. If your Majesty's Orders had not come last Post, to assure them they shou'd be assisted, in case the Bishop of *Munster* attack'd them, the States had, without doubt, come to other Resolutions than those they have now taken. The *Sieur de Wit* had much ado to defend himself in all the Matters laid to his Charge in this War, there are so many Persons to be manag'd, so many different Dispositions to bring Affairs about; for their Impressions are very often quite contrary to the Truth, and 'tis not casie to rid them of 'em. I will endeavour to do all that lies in my Power to keep 'em right, and follow your Majesty's Pleasure, mine being in entire Obedience to yours, and to be with all kinds of Respects.

The END of the First Volume.



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